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PERCEIVED FRENCH DISSATISFACTION WITH SARKIS GOVERNMENT

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 262, 27 Feb 82 pp 26-27

[Article by Ghassan Bayram: "'The Loving Mother' is Angry With Lebanon, the President of Lebanon and the Government of Lebanon"]

[Text] The French Foreign Minister, Claude Cheysson, asked Lebanese Foreign Minister Faud Butrus: "What do you in Lebanon want of Israel and what can President Mitterrand ask of the Israelis with regard to Lebanon?"

Before the Lebanese foreign minister replied, the French minister went on to say: "You know that President Mitterrand will be visiting Israel in a few days and will be able to speak frankly to the Israelis about anything. It will be a fine opportunity to broach the subject of the Lebanese crisis from all angles--or to put it more precisely, the issue of southern Lebanon--especially since we have French forces in southern Lebanon operating within the scope of the UN troops. It would therefore be a good thing for us to get a very clear knowledge of what Lebanon wants of Israel and how we, the French, can help Lebanon in Israel."

The Lebanese foreign minister replied: "What we want at present is for Israel to agree to implement the UN resolutions pertaining to the South, especially Resolution No. 425 which provides that it should leave the border strip and permit the international forces to deploy in this area and to abide by the truce agreement."

Signs of surprise and annoyance appeared on the French minister's face and he looked at his Lebanese counterpart with whom he had an old friendship going back to before the socialists came to power, saying:

"I would hope that your requests would be reasonable, acceptable and feasible. Before you ask us to persuade the Israelis of this request, we must be convinced that such requests can be implemented so that we can then talk with and persuade the Israelis." Claude Cheysson went on to say: "In the circumstances which the area and the world are experiencing and the climate which dominates your situation, how can you expect the Israelis to abandon Sa'd Haddad and the border strip area, leaving the positions of the Palestinian organizations a few kilometers from their border? Is it reasonable for us to ask Israel to do this with nothing in return? Is it reasonable for you to

ask your Israeli enemy to give you more than your ally, friend or brother is prepared to give you?"

What is so unusual about this French statement?

This point of view may express a genuine, covertly held position not only on the part of France but of America and the other countries of the European group and on the basis of which this world takes action with regard to the Lebanese crisis and the tragedy of the South. However, the peculiar thing is that this is the first time that France has talked to Lebanon with this logic and this candor despite fundamental agreement on the Security Council resolutions and France's being a participant with army troops in the UN forces operating in the South, forces whose basic mission is to implement these resolutions which above all else call for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory in the South and the subsequent deployment of UN troops in this occupied territory preparatory to handing it over to the legitimate Lebanese authorities so that they can impose their control and national sovereignty over it.

While the Lebanese state is now more surprised and startled, this is because, according to a senior official, it views these French statements as an effect, not a cause, the effect of switches which began to appear on the horizon of French policy after the socialists came to power. They feel that the France of Mitterrand and the socialists is not the France of DeGaulle and the Gaullists and D'Estaing and that these switches have had an impact on the approach of French interaction and dealings with the Middle East crisis as a whole, and the problem of Lebanon and the tragedy of its South, in particular.

A senior Lebanese personage says: The French do not refute this difference in principle; many of them have been and are stressing that they are not a continuation of their Gaullist and D'Estaing predecessors, whether from the standpoint of commitments or of initiatives.

However, this is not a complete transformation in the policies and fundamental positions of France as asserted by the rulers of the Elysee, particularly the officials in the Foreign Ministry; rather, it is merely an alteration in its perspective of problems, crises and unresolved issues and a fulfillment of the principle of balance in positions, actions and initiatives, the principle by which France can benefit more.

So, has this principle dropped Lebanon's special status with the French and placed Lebanon on an equal footing with the other countries of the area in particular, with what applies to the crisis of the area in general now applying also to the Lebanese crisis?

This question is now being raised in more than just Lebanon. When the French foreign minister reaffirms that this special character which has historically governed Franco-Lebanese relations will continue and that France wants to help Lebanon to preserve the integrity of its territory and people and retain its recognized international borders, and when the architect of French diplomacy insistently reaffirms that in front of more than one Lebanese political personage and even some officials, a search for some flaw in

relations will lead the searchers to one hard fact now supported by a great deal of specific information and elements. This fact says that the people in power in France now do not view the members of the government in Lebanon with satisfaction and confidence and are dissatisfied with the mentality that governs the administration in Lebanon.

Some researchers who are well informed about the facts of events in Franco-Lebanese relations, whether on the state to state level or between officials here and officials there, attribute all this to backgrounds formed on the part of President Mitterrand and the leaders of the Socialist Party when they were out of power in the opposition and had constant relationships, contacts and meetings with the parties to the Lebanese crisis.

Mitterrand and his party leaders came to power with a negative and extremely bad image of President Ilyas Sarkis, his era and those who cooperate with him. This image was formed by what was reported to them and what they heard from Lebanese leadership elements and personages concerned with the crisis who used to frequent the French capital regularly, personalities representing the various parties to the dispute from the far right to the far left. Neither the leaders of the Phalange Party and the Lebanese Front nor the leaders of the Nationalist Movement and the parties of the left and anything positive to say about President Sarkis, his administration or his aides.

This image has continued to govern the French outlook on the actions and statements of the members of the administration in Lebanon. Even now, it is to be observed that with regard to interest in the Lebanese situation and following developments of the Lebanese crisis, President Mitterrand's administration occupies itself far more with the parties in Lebanon than with the state, contrary to the way it was during the time of President d'Estaing when the picture was just the opposite and it was preferred to deal and consult with the state and contact with the parties who were players in the crisis was a fringe issue.

To prove this, some informed persons point out that the new French ambassador in Lebanon, Paul Marc Louis Henri rarely visits the Republican Palace or the Foreign Ministry. If one can cite an example, since the French ambassador took over his assignment in Beirut, he has visited the Foreign Ministry only once or twice while he is almost constantly visiting and meeting with the various Lebanese parties to the dispute and scarcely a day passes that there is not a picture or news item of his meeting with this personality or that leadership. This was not the practice earlier since the French ambassador made endless visits to the palace or the Foreign Ministry and not a week would go by without a visit or two being recorded, the series of consultations and exchanges of views between the French and Lebanese governments being constant.

It was almost too much when President Sarkis and the leaders of his administration were apprised of the statements made by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson in which he placed the responsibility for curtailing France in assisting Lebanon and his statement that "were Lebanon to ask us to help it solve the problem of the South, we would be prepared to intervene and send French armies."

There was an uproar at Ba'abda Palace over this French statement and it was decided to send Foreign Minister Faud Butrus to visit Paris.

Before he left, President Sarkis met with him and told him what follows verbatim: "You must ask the French: 'Do what you can to aid Lebanon so that we can ask it of you and if you are unable to assist us, at least show compassion for us.'"

It is reported in some circles that President Sarkis made a much harsher statement to Minister Butrus but that it was the foreign minister who toned down the language of some parts of the statement and left other parts out.

Apart from the fact that things were not easy for the foreign minister in Paris in meeting with President Mitterrand, the Phalangist deputy, Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, who happened to be in the French capital during Minister Butrus' visit, said before a meeting of the Phalange Party's political bureau after he returned that it was he who had helped to arrange some meetings for Minister Butrus with some senior French officials.

After Minister Faud Butrus returned from his visit to Paris and in the course of reviewing the negative results of the visit, he said that the statement which he had heard in Beirut from Assistant UN Secretary General Brian Urquhart about the French and their willingness to participate with new troops in the South was more positive than the statement he heard from French officials in Paris about the same subject. The French capital gave Minister Butrus its approval in principle for increasing its participation in the UN forces operating in the South by 1,000 persons but this approval was accompanied by the stipulation that a Frenchman must become commander of the UN troops.

Lebanon fundamentally has no objection or reservation about a French commander of the UN troops coming to the South but it was feared that if Paris were adamant about this French condition, it would lead to wrecking the plan in the Security Council giving the likelihood that Syrian and Palestinian opposition to this request would arise. This difficulty remained until the hour the Security Council began debating the secretary general's report and the Lebanese request to increase the international forces and the area of their deployment.

However, all this was not the sole cause for the disappointment with which the Lebanese foreign minister returned from his visit to Paris. The major cause was the failure of the talks about the possibility and necessity of France helping to implement the program it had laid out to arm the Lebanese army, the program which called for equipping and arming the army so that by the end of 1982 it would comprise three armored brigades (Lebanon now has one half an armored brigade) supplied with antitank and anti-aircraft missiles and with three squadrons of helicopters in addition to conventional light arms.

At the time the French capital announced that it had laid out this program to arm and equip the Lebanese army, it was said that agreement on this had been reached between Paris and Washington within the context of complete coordination in which the two capital divided up roles. This was viewed as one of the most prominent indicators that there was an international decision

to spare, restore and assist Lebanon. Throughout the past few months, the Lebanese capital had been waiting for the signal that a start would be made in carrying out this program. Beirut often tried to check it out and to make reminders but the answers were at times vague and at times stated that the issue was under preparation. Finally, Foreign Minister Fuad Butrus went to Paris and the most important matter he wanted to discuss was: Why had there not yet been any start on implementing this program. When he learned the reason, there was further astonishment.

The French officials candidly told Minister Fuad Butrus all the reasons that had so far prevented moving into the operative phase of the program to arm and equip the Lebanese army, reasons which included the following:

1. The French government still was skeptical about the ability of the leadership and the army to absorb the modern equipment and arms it would provide.
2. There were serious French apprehensions that these modern arms would get into the hands of the militias, parties and Palestinian resistance if the government continued in its present state and the Lebanese situation were subjected to a new jolt.

The French had attempted to discuss laying down conditions which would ensure that these arms would not move to other than legitimate forces but the discussion had been futile.

To overcome these reservations and to try to reassure the French, Lebanon asked Paris to provide it with French advisors to help rebuild and reequip the army in men and materiel. Lebanon felt that it could kill two birds with one stone with this request. On the one hand it would have reassured France that it would always be the watchful eye over the rebuilding and reequipping of the army.

On the other hand, it would have benefitted from the advanced French expertise in this field, particularly since France had, to a certain extent, had two similar experiences to that which Lebanon was experiencing.

The first was after World War II when France was able to form and rebuild its army and, consequently, absorb the French resistance.

The second experience was in the Algerian war when the army was divided against itself and was on the brink of breaking apart.

However, this Lebanese request met with a French rejection.

Minister Fuad Butrus says that France had a point of view justifying this rejection. It felt that the issue of sending military experts would stir up misinterpretations and many sensitivities and that it would inevitably be toted up in the balance sheet of reasons and circumstances for which the United States and the Soviet Union pursued the policy of sending experts to countries allied with them.

So, what did Fuad Butrus bring back from Paris?

For all practical purposes, he did not bring anything back except an invitation to wait until President Mitterrand's visit to Israel was finished since the discussions he would hold might enable him to understand the real Israel point of view and, in light of this, he would try to propose some view on a solution of the problem of southern Lebanon.

There is still an important question: What does all this mean?

It so far appears that there is something out of the ordinary on the horizon of Lebanese relations with Paris and vice versa. Has it been caused by a swicch in the overall French perspective of conditions in the area and relations with the countries there?

Or does the reason, as they say, go back to French dissatisfaction with some elements in the administration hierarchy in Lebanon and the mentality of the rulers and officials in it?

The issue now is under serious study and consultation for two outstanding reasons: The first is that it appears to be impossible, whatever the circumstances, to renounce France which is one of the main pillars of Lebanese foreign policy.

The other reason is to attempt to ascertain the real background of this new pattern of dealing with Lebanon and its crisis and whether there are purely French reasons for it or whether there are other international ramifications.

8389

CSO: 4404/337

BANK PRESIDENT DISCUSSES BANK INVESTMENT PRACTICES

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Mar 82 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman, president of the Arab Bank Corporation, by 'Ali Ibrahim: "The Remedy For Capital Flight Is To Raise Interest Rates On Deposits"; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] The flight of Arab capital abroad; difficulties of Arab bank operations; an open invitation to the banks of the region to invest in Greece; the future of gold and the dollar; the Far East market and Arab investments; the petrodollar and its investment possibilities.

These are the numerous important issues raised during a discussion with 'Abd-al-Majid Shuman, the president of the third largest Arab bank in assets, and the second oldest, the Arab Bank Corporation.

Mr Shuman was visiting the UAE last week to inspect the bank's branches here.

[Question] The Arab banks have been accused of failing to invest their funds in the region and preferring the guaranteed investments in foreign markets.

[Answer] The Arab banks play an important and effective role in the local markets and provide these markets with sufficient loans.

But, in my opinion, in view of the fact that the banks have acquired large foreign currency deposits they are compelled to invest this money abroad so as to avoid the risks of monetary devaluation.

It is inconceivable that any Arab bank would refuse to grant bank credit to any Arab party as long as it is currently in good shape and there is no risk of loss.

While it is true that the credits are short term, they can always be renewed in accordance with the needs of the company or individual. In this way they can be long term.

[Question] What are the problems associated with the flow of Arab capital among the Arab countries? Why don't the Arab banks participate in the circulation of oil revenue surpluses?

[Answer] The truth is that Arab monetary surpluses resulting from oil revenues are tremendous sums, and the Arab banks are unable to absorb all of this money. Therefore the greater portion of it goes into European, American and Japanese institutions.

[Question] But why are the Arab banks unable to absorb it?

[Answer] First, investment opportunities are more limited for Arab banks than for foreign banks. In spite of the fact that the Arab banks have recently begun to expand operations abroad the opportunities for investment are not as accessible as they are for the foreign banks which have had a network of branches all over the world for a long time.

The Arab Market Is Limited

[Question] Why are these funds not invested in the Arab market?

[Answer] The opportunities for investment in the Arab market are limited. It does not have room for the investment of all this money through normal banking channels. Therefore the banks tend to find room abroad. For example, here in the UAE the banks invest more in the market than they have in deposits.

[Question] Let's come back to the Arab World. Do you think that it is necessary to ratify some kind of joint agreement at the official level to facilitate the work of the Arab banks and coordination among them?

[Answer] You know that there are many Arab economic agreements. But the fact of the matter I'm sorry to say is that Arab activity in this area has not been successful. If the agreements which have been ratified had been implemented it would have been to everyone's advantage. But unfortunately none has been implemented.

The Arab banks are attempting to coordinate and cooperate. We have met several times. A meeting on coordination for old and important Arab banks was held two weeks ago in Bahrein at which certain roles were assigned.

The Arab Bank Corporation, for example, was assigned the area of bank training. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi was assigned the area of bank operations. The International Gulf Bank was assigned international loans.

This meeting was a conclave of the principal banks.

I have been informed that another meeting on cooperation and coordination will be held in six months in Kuwait, and will include 20 principal Arab banks.

The Far East

[Question] Arab investors have begun to turn toward the Far East market. What in your estimation is the potential of this market for Arab investments, particularly in view of the fact that you were there only a few days ago to attend the UBAF meetings there?

[Answer] This region will be important in the future. It consists of truly developing countries with great potential as a labor market. There are also significant credits available for investors.

[Question] We know that you were in Greece recently. Greece has recently taken a sharp turn in the direction of support for Arab causes and the Palestinian cause. What in your opinion are the possibilities for economic cooperation with Greece?

Greece's Open Invitation

[Answer] In fact, through my contacts with officials there I perceived that they want to encourage the investment of Arab capital in Greece. They are considering modifying their laws to attract Arab investments. Officials there stressed to me that they intend to reach agreements with the Arab countries relating to offering them credits in Greece. The Greek market is good, and is located near the Arab markets as well as the European markets, and Greece is also a member of the European Common Market.

A Lack of Trust

[Question] Does the flight of Arab capital abroad signify a lack of confidence in the local markets?

[Answer] The question is not a lack of trust or confidence. It is the high interest rates the investor can get by depositing his money abroad and converting it to foreign currency. The solution to this is to raise interest rates on deposits in local Arab currencies. It is true that this will raise the cost of loans, but this will keep the wealth at home, and the cost of loans for projects can be reduced by using specialized banks such as industrial, real estate and professional banks.

9123

CSO: 4404/402

REPORTAGE ON SHARI'ATMADARI CASE

Attacks Condemned

GF261630 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 21 Apr 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The gang of Ruhollah Khomeyni has been preparing to deliver the greatest insult to Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. This great insult will not only lead to the defrocking of this great source of emulation and religious leader of the Shi'ites but may lead to the execution of Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. The regime's mass media laid the groundwork for this great crime yesterday. They have begun a large propaganda campaign to attribute the foiled plot by Sadeq Qotbzadeh to Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. (?The excuse) used by Khomeyni's cronies for attacking Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, the great leader of the Shi'ites, is the television confessions of Sadeq Qotbzadeh. The circumstances and the motives behind Qotbzadeh's allegation concerning his contacts with Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari are not yet clear. It is certain that Qotbzadeh is not living in conditions any more favorable than those of Ahmad Ghazanfarapur and his wife, Sudabeh Seyrafi. They were given two choices: Either to participate in a television interview and to speak about anything that the revolution prosecutor wished or to be put in front of the firing squad! The reason for the efforts exerted by Khomeyni's cronies to implicate Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and his destruction is clear. They know that Khomeyni will die soon and following his death, none of the so-called sources of emulation such as Montazeri and others would dare challenge Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Therefore, this criminal and power hungry group has become determined to remove Ayatollah Shari'atmadari before Khomeyni's death. It is interesting to note that individuals such as Golpayegani, Najafi-mar'ashi and 'Abdollah Shirazi, who used to issue daily communiques during the last few months of the former regime, especially during the premiership of Bakhtiar, condemning the insults of one or another gendarmerie NCO delivered to a junior theologian in a far away place as attacks against the sacred beliefs of the Islamic Umma and to raise shouts of "woe Islam," have remained silent about the dastardly and shameless attacks against the person of Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Let us not forget that many of them, including Ruhollah Khomeyni, received the decree for their position from the hands of Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. The role of the Tudeh

Party in all this is worthy of notice. We can state with certainty that Tudehis will consider the first portion of their anti-Iranian plot complete at the time of Khomeyni's death. They will leave their present role, and during the second phase of their program for obtaining power, they will ask for the formation of a coalition government with several ministers from their party and thus clear the road for obtaining power.

The presence of a powerful religious source of emulation such as the Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari would block the anti-Iranian aims of the Tudeh Party. The Tudehis and their masters also know that Ayatollah Shari'atmadari (?stands), especially among our Azarbayjani compatriots, as a great dam against the separatist plots and communist propaganda of the servants of [short passage indistinct]. [Words indistinct] to remove Ayatollah Shari'atmadari from their road to power.

In summary, it can be said that all the enemies of Iran and Islam have colluded in order to destroy this great religious leader. What is happening to Ayatollah Shari'atmadari makes us remember some of the events of early Islam. Khomeyni on the way to taking Iran back 1,400 years seems to have (?assumed the role of) Mu'aviyan against Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him and his scion. It is Khomeyni who, by playing this role and by public deceit, has forced darkness on light and has (?arrested) the great clergyman Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. However, Ayatollah Shari'atmadari in turn enjoys a special popularity among the Iranian people. Tabriz marches are still alive in memories. Hundreds of thousands of Azarbayjani zealots united to chant in support of him during those marches. The number of his followers among the Azarbayjanis alone exceeds several million. Today Ayatollah Shari'atmadari is on the verge of execution and there is a possibility that the news of his execution will be published any day. Will the followers of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and especially the zealous people of Azarbayjan allow Khomeyni to insult this man of God and this noble son of Azarbayjan by defrocking him or even executing him? Will Azarbayjanis remain silent against such a terrifying event? We must wait a few days for our answer.

Tabriz Clergymen's Protests

GF231516 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 0330 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] In continuation of the efforts of the ruling pseudoclergymen for the ayatollah's dismissal from his position as a source of emulation, the regime's radio persists in broadcasting false statements by the so-called religious scholars of Azarbayjan.

Khomeyni's radio carried statements by a few pseudoclerical professional mourners of Azarbayjan in which Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari was vehemently castigated. According to observers, in view of the popularity the Ayatollah Shari'atmadari enjoys with Iranians in general and the Azarbayjanis in particular, statements opposing this reverend source of emulation cannot be the work of anyone except the handful of the pseudoclergymen affiliated with the Khomeyni regime. In any case, the nongovernmental clergymen of

Tabriz and the local elders have distributed a communique in the form of night pamphlets in protest of the false accusations of the ruling regime and in support of the stance of Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari.

According to the Voice of Iran reporter, these pamphlets, which were published on Tuesday night, were distributed in various parts of Tabriz and neighboring cities.

In this communique, which has as its signatories the elders of Sorkhab, (Ahrab), (Khiaban), (Wehju'yieh), (Shotorban), (Shesh Gilan), (Hokmabad), (Leylava) and (Maralan), and also the elders of the Tabriz bazaar, it is said that the (?position) and the status quo of his eminence Haj Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, the revered leader of the Shi'ites vis-a-vis the present problems of the country will be (?supported) as before and have always been an indication of his selflessness and righteousness, as is expected from such an authority.

In the communique of the elders of the bazaar and precincts of Tabriz, is stated: The source of emulation of the Shi'ites has not supported the conspiracy of one traitorous group against another treacherous group because the support of any group which has deceitfully dragged God's creatures into the fetters of tyranny and oppression in the name of God is tantamount to the support of infidelity and the satan.

The elders of the bazaar and precincts of Tabriz, who had earlier decided to observe Wednesday as public holiday in protest of the shameless actions of the regime of Khomeyni, asked all Muslims and the pious and heroic people of Azarbayjan in particular to rebel against the Yazid-like regime of Khomeyni.

Arrests of Bazaar Merchants

GF231352 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 0330 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] According to a United Press report from Paris, the former chief of the Tehran guilds' union Hajj Qasem Lebaschi announced that five well-known and respected bazaar merchants of Tehran have been arrested by the regime's revolution guards on charges of support of Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari.

Hajj Qasem Lebaschi, who had sought refuge in France last year, said in a communique issued in Paris, that recently, a highly-reputed and reliable individual of the Tehran bazaar had been executed. He expressed his support for his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari in his statement addressed to the Tehran bazaar merchants.

Pro-Shari'atmadari Group Issues Warning

GF231307 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 0330 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] While the revolution guards of the regime have mobilized all their resources to combat the protests of the supporters of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari

on Friday, a group of followers of this source of emulation, which calls itself the "Shari'at front," has issued and distributed another warning which says:

"The accusations which have been pinned on his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari are disgraceful and removed from reality and logic. Therefore, we, the youths and members of the Shari'at front, will not permit the bestial behavior of the ruling regime to continue against his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, and we will show our first reaction on Friday, 23 April in Tehran, Tabriz and Qom."

Reaction to Shari'atmadari Arrest

NC241702 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The speaker of the clerical Majlis, Hashemi-raftsanjani, has aimed the strongest attacks at the great leader of the Shi'ites of the world by saying: Mr Khamene'i and I agree that this problem should not become a big issue. In our opinion, people like Shari'atmadari are dead.

Hashemi-raftsanjani also said: If Bani-Sadr's downfall caused concern in the Western world, the last shot at the West's brain came with the [words indistinct] of Shari'atmadari. However, informed sources believe that the clerical regime in Iran shot the last bullet at the brains of Khomeyni and of the other clergymen who have exploited their (?clerical position) to rule the people by committing the great mistake of affronting the lofty position of his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari.

The wave of opposition by the Muslim people throughout our country to the insulting of the great leader of the Shi'ites of the world, his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, continues. Yesterday, the bazaars in Tabriz, Reza'iyeh, Tehran and many other cities of Iran were closed and leaflets and statements were distributed in Tabriz, Reza'iyeh and Tehran. These leaflets and statements said that (?despite) the 2-year silence by Shari'atmadari, Khomeyni intends to take revenge. Meanwhile, the front of Shari'at has issued a statement warning those who intend to participate in the prayer of unity and the plays staged by Khomeyni's (?anti-Iranian) regime [words indistinct].

The Tehran bazaar is still closed. People in most parts of Iran stayed in their homes on Friday in protest against the inhumane and anti-Iranian Khomeyni regime, and the streets were empty. The insulting of the great leader of the Shi'ite world, his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, has sparked off opposition and negative reactions by people throughout the country, and especially in the east and west Azarbayjan provinces. At the urging of anti-regime organizations and groups, followers of his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and Azarbayjanis living in Tehran, all shops in Tehran and other Iranian cities were closed on Wednesday, Thursday and today. With their silence, which was coupled with their aversion and rage, the people inflicted a strong blow on the ruling turbaned hooligans.

Free Voice of Iran correspondents in Tabriz and Reza'iyeh have reported that in some places hireling revolution guards clashed with supporters of the great Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and that a large number of people were wounded. It is said that many revolution guards in the east and west Azarbayjan provinces have either resigned or have left the corps headquarters.

A Free Voice of Iran correspondent has reported from Qom that the Qom bazaar is still closed and that three other relatives of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari have been arrested. About (?600) people in Tabriz and more than 350 people in Reza'iyeh were arrested in the past 24 hours on charges of supporting Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. The city of Qom is restless and Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's house is still under seige by revolution guards. Meanwhile, doctors treating Ayatollah Shari'atmadari (?have not been allowed to visit him) and a source close to the ayatollah has said that his health is not satisfactory and that the grand leader of the Shi'ites in Qom has repeatedly (?been the target of disrespect) by officials of Khomeyni's regime.

Some 120 representatives of the clerical regime (?yesterday) called for Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's trial, acting on Hashemi-rafsanjani's orders. A Free Voice of Iran correspondent has reported from Tehran that most of the clerical Majlis deputies opposed this and considered it an insult to religious authority. It should be recalled that 120 clerical Majlis deputies were forced by Khomeyni's regime to sign this request, but some deputies not only refused to sign the request dictated by Khomeyni and Rafsanjani but a Majlis deputy named Shoja'i--the Zanjan deputy--resigned in protest. Khomeyni's regime has announced that the reason for the Zanjan deputy's resignation is illness and inability to serve, but the Free Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that several Majlis deputies have tendered their resignations to Hashemi-rafsanjani. During the recent clerical Majlis session, some of the deputies described the insulting of the great leader of the world's Shi'ites, Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, as a Tudehi plot prepared to foment riots and disturbances in Iran.

This afternoon opponents of the regime participated in a spectacular march and gathered in front of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Paris, where they expressed their aversion to the insulting of the lofty position of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. The demonstrators shouted various slogans calling for Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's release and for ending torture and (?executions without trial). A Free Voice of Iran correspondent's report states that a statement issued to invite Iranians living in France to participate in demonstrations against Khomeyni's bloodthirsty regime says that Khomeyni's regime has intensified its crimes to the extent of (?its recent aggression of a true clergyman). All Muslim and combatant people living abroad, with any taste and ideology, are called upon to participate in these demonstrations and to unitedly condemn the crimes and aggressions committed by the regime ruling Iran. For our listeners' information, details of these demonstrations will be reported in tomorrow's program, as will the text of the demonstration's resolution.

Shari'at Front Statement

NC240753 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] A Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that the Shari'at front, which distributed leaflets to residents in Tehran, Tabriz, Qom and Mashhad warning them not to participate in the staged Friday prayers, has distributed another leaflet during the night stating that members of the Shari'at front leadership cadre met on Thursday night and agreed to postpone the plans for upsetting the staged Friday prayers to another date in order to prevent certain bloodshed and the killing of a large number of deceived and innocent people. At the end of its statement the Shari'at front stressed that the regime's savage and anti-Islamic behavior toward the grand Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari is unforgiveable, and that the people of Iran will give the necessary reply to the anti religion and anti popular regime.

Pope's Aid Sought

NC241319 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Following various cables sent by former prime minister and coordinator of the front for Iran's salvation Dr 'Ali Amini and by other antiregime personalities and groups to the heads of Muslim countries, leaders and Muslim clergymen, the national resistance movement of Iran has sent a cable to the grand Ayatollah Khoyi in an-Najaf asking him to clarify his stance on the savage and antireligious acts by Khomeyni's republic toward the grand Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari and to issue a decree specifying the canonical duties of the Shi'ites.

The national resistance movement has also sent a cable to Pope John Paul II, leader of the world's Catholics, in which the pope was asked to (?condemn) the fascist acts by Khomeyni's regime against Iran's (?true and devoted) clergymen.

This cable states: His holiness, the Pope: The insults which are now being aimed at the leader of the world's Shi'ites, the grand Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, are not limited just to the world of Islam but [affect] (?all the religions of the world). The leader of the world's Catholics is expected to condemn such [words indistinct] toward religion.

Demonstrations Staged in Europe

NC241329 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] Thousands of Iranians organized vast marches and demonstrations in support of Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari's independent stance and in protest of the savage and antireligious acts by Khomeyni's regime. Marching from the center of Paris to Khomeyni's den of espionage in the capital of France, the demonstrators and marchers carried the tricolor lion and sun flag and posters of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. [Words indistinct]

and at the end a resolution was issued protesting and condemning the (?anti-Iranian), antireligious and inhumane policies of the mullahs ruling our country.

Initial reports state that during these spectacular demonstrations in front of Khomeyni's den of espionage in Paris the demonstrators set fire to pictures and effigies of the imam of the Umma.

According to this report, the protesting shouts of thousands of Iranians who have been driven out of their homeland were so strong that they reverberated through the central streets of Paris.

Last Tuesday similar demonstrations were held in London. On Saturday and Sunday demonstrations will also be held for the same purpose in other European countries, (?namely) Germany, Austria, Italy and [word indistinct].

Title Loss

NC240803 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] A Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that in Tehran Ayatollah Khansari rejected the regime's empty claims of stripping Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari of his religious title and described this as an act contrary to the norms of canonical law. Our correspondent reports that Ayatollah Khansari expressed this view orally in a meeting with a number of Tehran bazaaris. Ayatollah Khansari also told the bazaaris: Your concern is baseless because by changing the name of diamond to [word indistinct] its nature is not changed and its value is not diminished.

Paris Demonstration

LD241052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] According to a Central News unit dispatch from Paris, yesterday afternoon around 70 counterrevolutionaries, each carrying an Iranian flag with the red sun-and-lion emblem [Iranian flag before creation of Islamic Republic] gathered outside the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and announced their support for Shari'atmadari. This monarchist group, who drove to the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in modern cars, left with chants of "glory to France" and "glory to the French police." They were also chanting slogans against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Bandar Lengeh Imam's Sermon

GF241746 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Excerpts] In the course of his prayer sermon, the Friday imam of Bandar Lengeh initially spoke on the reasons for disqualification of Mr Kazem Shari'atmadari as a source of emulation, which manifested itself in the form of massive protest marches in the districts of the country.

Then the Friday imam of Bandar Lengeh spoke on the upcoming interim elections of the Islamic Majlis and asked the dedicated Muslim nation to consider carefully and investigate thoroughly the candidate they have in mind for entry into the Majlis.

Lebanese Shi'ites on Shari'atmadari

NC241720 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that even though Shi'ite circles in Lebanon have not publicly reacted to accusations made in a statement issued by 'Ali Khamene'i, Hashemi-raftsanjani, 'Ali Akbar Nateq-nuri, Musavi Ardebili and Mahdavi Kani against the grand Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, regrets and awe have been expressed at the decision by the seminarians of the Qom Theological Center stripping Ayatollah Shari'atmadari of his title as a source of imitation. High-ranking Shi'ite clergymen in Lebanon have said that in exceptional cases ayatollahs and sources of imitation can execute a religious 'ulema on the condition that this person was not recognized as a source of imitation by Muslims. This exception was seen during the reign of the shah of Iran in the case of Ayatollah Khomeyni when high-ranking Shi'ite 'ulemas in Iran (?and) his eminence Ayatollah Shari'atmadari feared that if Ayatollah Khomeyni's religious authority was not announced he would be harassed by the regime's agents and possibly be tried in a military tribunal. But in the opinion of the Lebanese Shi'ite 'ulemas, never in the history of the Shi'ite religion have sources of imitation been able to strip a (?devoted) clergyman of his religious authority, let alone has this authority been exercised by theological students or a theological center.

Undoubtedly, this heresy is one of the so-called revolutionary outcomes of the Islamic Republic, which has almost completely severed its relations with the true and traditional Islamic religion.

Mojahedin Link to Qotbzadeh Plot

NC241736 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] Our correspondent has reported from Mashhad that although during the first days of the plot against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and after the forged confessions by Sadeq Qotbzadeh, Ruhollah Khomeyni's former adviser and translator, no mention was made of the Mojahedin-e Khalq's participation in this plot and only monarchists, the national front and even pan-Iranians were the targets of accusations, suddenly "documents" have been revealed in Mashhad which, according to the regime's officials, confirm the participation of elements affiliated to the Mojahedin-e Khalq. A Mojahedin leader in Mashhad has told our correspondent that this so-called revelation is a new pretext to kill, arrest and torture more people who are known to support the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization.

Mashhad Ayatollah's Statement

NC241727 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] The Clandestine Voice of Iran has reported that Ayatollah Tabataba'i-qomi has issued a statement in Mashhad strongly protesting accusations against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. In his statement, Tabataba'i-qomi pointed out that on the basis of Shi'ite jurisprudence, no clergyman or religious authority can strip a grand ayatollah and source of imitation of his rank. This report has not yet been confirmed by other news sources.

Hasan Nazih Statement

GF251953 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Hasan Nazih has issued a communique regarding Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. In the communique he said: The tyrannical ruling regime in Iran, which has trampled the basic rights of the nation in a careless and indifferent manner, continues its domination and seeks an extension of the bloodbath. On the pretext of crushing the coup attributed to Qotbzadeh, and with pretences brimming with compiling dossiers and collusion, it has begun another fascist attack on all the groups and parties and political and religious personages, and as a result, the revered presence of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, the respected political and religious leader, and his family members have been expostulated shamelessly.

Ever since Khomeyni and his corrupt and debauched minions began pointing their sharp edge of attack on Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, millions of Azarbayjanis, with faith in the ideals of patriotism and their intense love of freedom, have risen to try to overthrow the tyrannical regime of Khomeyni. They recognize Shari'atmadari as a manifestation of national and religious hopes and the sole source [of emulation], savior and leader.

Hasan Nazih further writes in his communique: With all propaganda facilities at one's disposal, it is easy to fabricate false allegations about any individual or group. However a correct judgement, in conformity with justice and law, is a difficult job.

Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's honor, domestic security, his family, and his academic and cultural institutions and publications will soon reveal more than ever the weakness, disgrace and incompetence, and similarly the anxiety of the despotic regime, and the imminence of a national uprising, and will further clarify the anti-Iranian, anti-Islamic and antihuman nature of the so-called Islamic republic.

At the end of his communique, Nazih writes: The series of criminal and sanguinary attacks of the [word indistinct] regime will be the harbinger

of an inevitable and wrathful downfall in the near future. Therefore, as history will bear witness, the tottering base of any despotic ruler has not been strengthened by bloodshed, plunder or trespassing on rights of the individual or people of the nation. At this stage in Iran's history, light will triumph over darkness, truth over falsehood and democracy over despotism.

Regime's Attitude

GF251735 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Following the false allegations by the regime of the Islamic Republic against his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, it seems that the officials of the regime, on orders from their leader, are competing to raise more false allegations. The Islamic Republic's radio reported that Rafsanjani, Nateq-nuri and Khamene'i met Khomeyni separately yesterday and talked with him. Informed observers attach great importance to the meetings between these three officials of the regime and Khomeyni. They are signatories of the strongly worded statement by the central committee of the clergymen against his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Our correspondent in Tehran has reported that there has been strong disagreement among these three--since the plot was discovered--on the subject of allegations against his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Khamene'i and his entourage, which includes Sadeq Khalkhali, are pressuring Khomeyni to finish off Qotbzadeh and Mr Shari'atmadari as quickly as possible. Hashemi-rafsanjani supports the policy of patience and waiting regarding those accused of the plot. He says the sources of emulation must not be readily attacked and their honor soiled. On the other hand, Khomeyni has transferred all his control of the army and law enforcement agencies to Nateq-nuri. Mr President, who should be commander of the armed forces, in reality has no job, except as the advisor to Nateq-nuri. Khamene'i, in order to put on a show and gain more power, has started attacking Ayatollah Shari'atmadari in order to scare the liberal and moderate groups and also create some prestige for himself. However, Khomeyni, who has become very worried about the reaction of the armed forces to the present events in the country, has given complete authority to the only person he trusts, Nateq-nuri, to become the observer of the events and to give him necessary and accurate reports. According to our reporter, the lies disseminated by the radio of the Islamic Republic concerning the demonstrations against this respected clergyman, his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, and the popular and strong condemnation of such lies have worried and strongly scared Khomeyni. When people came out in the streets in favor of Mr Shari'atmadari in all of Azarbayjan, closing their shops, the regime's radio and television network credited this to Khomeyni and the regime. The people of Azarbayjan and other parts of Iran, and especially the emulators of his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, have started passive resistance and have dealt a strong blow to the regime's lie disseminators by closing shops and boycotting order Friday prayers. Our correspondent adds that Khomeyni's unhappiness with the unfavorable reflection of the demonstrations was the reason why Hashemi, the director of the regime's radio and television network, cut

short his trip abroad and immediately returned to Iran. What is certain is that the deep disagreement between the regime's officials and the authorities in charge of the Islamic Republic Party has put Khomeyni at the crossroads of decision and has brought his regime to a deadend. In such a favorable atmosphere, the Iranian army will be able to take destiny-making actions. It is the belief of informed sources that the regime has started a dangerous game by making allegations against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. It is a game which the regime will surely lose and will thus be faced with unsolvable problems. Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's son Mr Hasan Shari'atmadari told REUTERS yesterday that the Islamic Republic regime has arrested nine assistants of his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and accused them of plotting against Khomeyni. According to our reporter in Azarbayjan, there were widespread demonstrations in various cities of Azarbayjan in support of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Heavy clashes occurred between the mercenary guards and emulators of his holiness Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, which resulted in casualties on both sides.

Arrest of Shari'atmadari

GF271225 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] The chief revolution prosecutor of the regime of Khomeyni, Mullah Musavi-tabrizi, yesterday officially announced that his holiness grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, source of emulation of the Shi'ites of the world, is under arrest in his house in Qom. Dispatches indicate that the mercenary guards of the regime have interrogated Ayatollah Shari'atmadari several times. Musavi-tabrizi also announced yesterday that a film of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's interrogation will soon be shown on television.

According to our information, Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's health is very poor and doctors are not allowed to visit and treat him on specific orders from Khomeyni.

Attacks on Shari'atmadari Continue

NC271708 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Summary from poor reception] The regime's attacks against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari continue. The regime's "so-called revolutionary prosecutor general" went so far yesterday as to "impudently claim" that the grand ayatollah's title was bestowed on him on orders of the late shah.

Meanwhile, Iranians abroad continue their marches and demonstrations in support of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. "The national front of Iran in Europe too issued a statement calling on the people not to participate in the so-called Friday prayers, organized by Khomeyni's regime, in protest of the regime's acts against Ayatollah Shari'atmadari."

CSO: 4640/263

POPULARITY OF ARMED FORCES NOTED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 82 pp 1, 3

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA)— In a special ceremony, President Khamenei who is also head of the Supreme Defense Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran decorated officers-students of the Navy, Army and Police on Thursday afternoon, in this ceremony attended also by Interior Minister Nateq Nuri.

The head of the Joint Staff, the defense minister, and the commanders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Gendarmerie, the head of the police force and some other officials along with the president reviewed the present forces in the Officers' Academy.

The same report said President Khamenei stated that the nation was proud of having such an Army which fought for the sake of God. Pointing out that global hegemonists couldn't stand to see a nation living without depending on one of the global Superpowers. The president remarked that the nation of Iran broke free from this pattern which had been dictated by the world's Superpowers.

The president added that the Iranians by relying on God and their own manpower and

natural resources remained free, independent and worthy of respect.

He further said that a nation which was ready to sacrifice itself from its leader to all its members one by one, would not be defeated.

Concerning the Iraqi imposed war on Iran, Khamenei said that this war with all its disasters for the two nations of Iran and Iraq, had a great benefit, which was discrediting the global hegemonists and the dictators ruling Iraq, who were portraying themselves as the peace-keepers and oppressed ones and Iran as the aggressor.

In conclusion, the president praised the attempts and endeavours rendered by the Army, Navy and Air Force commanders and other military and disciplinary forces.

He said that Armed Forces were never so popular among nation "As they are today."

ISLAMIC VALUES OF ARMY LAUDED

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Apr 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

When a revolution becomes victorious, it needs great effort in stabilizing and establishing revolutionary values and criteria in all fields and dimensions. This takes place in the wake of changes on the level of ruling regimes in various countries of the world.

Should one government go and another one come to power through a bloody or bloodless coup, it will not face many problems, for the coup government imposes everything on the people under the shadow of bayonets. While it comes to power rapidly, it tries to reach its ends overnight. Of course such regimes are usually replaced by others within a night. It is natural for a regime which comes after a coup, to fall with a coup.

It would be figurative if we call such superficial and transient changes, revolution. However, most of the changes that have taken place in various parts of the world have done so under these conditions, though they have chosen irregardless, the name of revolution.

Such changes are neither a revolution, nor can they even be considered as reforms. Today such words as revolution, coup d'etat, and reform should be re-examined in the political culture of nations in order to clarify the fact that revolution means the change of values, not the replacement of regimes.

Many were those who wanted to prevent the revolution in Iran. They endeavored mightily to force the huge popular movement which had emanated from the depths of the pure consciences of Muslim men and women — They sought to restrict it to a replacement of regimes. They wanted the values to remain unchanged, and the love for Islam in the people's hearts not to emerge and blossom.

Even after the victory of the revolution, the same elements tried to create obstacles in order not to allow the Islamic values to find a ground for establishment. They wanted our government system to take pattern itself after the West and East; our economy to remain dependent; our foreign policy to remain loyal to the unjust relations with the satanic powers; the laws of the country to remain non-Islamic; our social relations to go on in the previous corrupt path; and our armed forces to continue

their work while remaining dependent, non-Islamic and restricted in the tight bonds of alienation from the people and Islamic values. But what occurred in Iran was not something to be confined in the limits of such narrow-mindedness and to be pushed to a standstill as a result of shallowness and absurdity.

What had blossomed in the depth of the hearts of the Iranian people was destined to grow and keep its path until the robust sapling rising from this blossom would extend its shade over all corners of the people's life and spread the scent of Islam in every part of this land...and it happened so.

We saw that in spite of all such conspiracies and such sabotaging, and despite the sharp saw that the superpowers and their internal agents took up in order to destroy the young sapling, its pleasant blossoms perfumed the atmosphere of Iran more and more every day.

Pay a visit to the garrisons of the Army and smell the exhilarating scent of Islam. Remember the dark years of the Pahlavi rule which had created an army that had to live outside the towns and within the enclosure of the walls and battlements of garrisons, alien to the culture of the society.

Remember those days when the Army had to guard the illicit pleasures of the arrogant puppets instead of fighting for the cause of the human values. Remember the days when the spirits and talents of our militarymen were repressed by the Pahlavi regime and they had to tolerate the existence of the American "military advisors" and were not given the opportunity to develop their God-given gifts.

Now you see that the Army is for the people and the people are the refuge of the Army. Now you see that the Army is an army of battle. The militarymen are on the scene like the other people and participate in their demonstrations. The people too, are fighting in the fronts alongside like their Army brothers.

You see that the people now consider the Army as one of theirs and in order to provide for their comfort, they send their bread, fruits, clothes, money and everything to the fronts. In fact, they regard them as brothers who share their lives. What is this unprecedented and great transformation?!

The people see that their pilots fly over the Iraqi cities, but do not answer the crimes of the Ba'athist mercenaries by bombarding the non-military targets. Instead they spread leaflets over the cities of Iraq. Where has this generosity come from?!

Undoubtedly, as long as this Islamic morale develops in the Army, no plot will be able to threaten it or the nation. Truly this army is suitable for this nation. The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved to be a pattern for all the armies of the world. Our military brothers deserve the title of "the exemplary army" and should always remain an exemplar.

Congratulations on the occasion of the auspicious Day of the Islamic Republic Army to the self-sacrificing soldiers and officers, the brave Ummah and the great leader, Imam Khomeini.

Congratulations to the Imam for the existence of such an Islamic and devoted army, and felicitations to the valiant militarymen for having such a commander-in-chief.

CLAIMS ABORTED COUP PLANNED BY U.S.

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA)—Hojjatol-islam Movahedi Saveji, deputy from Saveh, central province, in an interview with IRNA yesterday said that the foiled coup d'etat attempt of the United States agents led by Sadeq Qotbzadeh, was similar to other thwarted coup attempts which were also planned by the U.S.

He further added that the only difference was that the recent coup attempt was supposed to take place in two stages. According to the plan, he added, the coup agents after martyring Imam Khomeini and other officials were to disguise their involvement and hold mourning ceremonies.

In another part of the interview the Hojjatoleslam added that several pseudo and corrupt religious men including one of the preachers of the former regime were involved and according to the plan after coup d'etat these imposters were supposed to issue announcements in support of the engineers of the coup.

Hojjatolislam Saveji commenting on Islamic confiscation of illegally gained wealth, said that in order to return such wealth to the public fund according to the provisions of the constitutional law a thorough investigation should be carried out. If the wealth is accumulated through usury, theft, hoarding and embezzlement of public fund then it would be returned to the public, he said.

CSO: 4600/434

MESSAGES TO ARAFAT, ASSAD NOTED

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA) — President Khamenei sent a message to Yassar Arafat, the head of the Executive Committee of the PLO yesterday, in response to the latter's message of felicitations on the anniversary of the Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Part of the message said that imperialism, disappointed in its efforts to destroy the Islamic Revolution of Iran by its agents ordered its "outspring Israel," to confront the recent Islamic uprising of the Palestinians now that the treacherous and compromising efforts of some Arab regimes revealed their uselessness.

The heroic nation of Palestine decided to struggle resolutely against the Zionist enemy using Islamic theory and practice, he said in another part of

the message.

The message also confirmed the all-out support of the revolutionarily Iranian nation for the Palestinians movement and asked the Islamic governments to use all their political, military and economic weapons against the Zionist invaders.

Every victory of Palestinian movement is ours and every blow inflicted upon you comes to us also, said Khamenei to Arafat in his message.

Meanwhile, Khamenei also sent a congratulatory message to Syrian President Hafez Assad on the occasion of Syrian Independence Day.

In his message, Khamenei paid tribute to the Syrian nation for its struggle against Zionists and imperialism powers.

CSO: 4600/434

IRAN AIR PLANNING TO LAY OFF FOREIGN EMPLOYEES

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Apr 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, April 19 (TRNA) — Iran Air expects to dismiss a total of 130 of its expatriate staff in the technical and engineering section and to replace them by Iranian employees by the end of the current year (February-March 1983), said the Managing Director of the government-controlled company, Mohammad Baqerian in Tehran Saturday.

The company is now sponsoring the technical education of 140 of its technicians abroad.

Founded about 30 years ago, the company shortly grew into a national and international aviation company. As the undeclared war broke out, the company had to cancel some of its flights. At the outset of the war Iran Air made 14 local flights and three flights abroad, while today, about 19 months since the start of the war, the company makes 106 domestic flights and 15 international flights weekly.

Since October 23rd 1981 Iran

Air has lifted about 2,230,000 passengers, about 980,000 passengers in domestic flights and the rest to overseas destinations, using about 70 percent of the payload of the company aircraft.

During the same period the company has carried about 89,000 tons of cargo, 81,000 tons to domestic destinations and the rest to overseas. Iran Air has also carried about 200,000 kilograms of mail to local destinations and another 2 million kilograms of mail and parcel post to overseas. The company is to overhaul its own 707's in Iran early next year (April 1983).

The company's Managing Director said that in the past Iranian year (March 1981-March 1982) the company had recorded a profit increase of 43 percent as compared to the previous year. The company now has a fleet of 29 aircraft, and expects to receive another three Airbus in the coming month.

CSO: 4600/436

SEMINAR ON WOMEN OPENS IN CAPITAL

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA) -- A seminar to study "Women in Islam", opened Thursday morning in Tehran's former Mottahedin University. This four day seminar which was inaugurated with a message from Imam Khomeini, the leader of the Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was attended by a large group of university professors, women studying in theological schools, women in the University Jihad, some women whose family had been martyred and a group of other women.

The head of the university Dr. Najafgholi Habibi, spoke on the birthday of Fatima, May God's Peace Be Upon Her, the Prophet's (SAW) daughter, on women's exploitation in various eras, and women's plight in the Jahiliya (age of ignorance) period, before the advent of Islam and during the reign of the defunct shah and his father.

Referring to Qor'anic verses on women, Dr. Habibi,

said in the previous regime some people tried to attack women's rights in Islam, and hence gradually realized that they had become devoid of the values of being women.

Speaking on the penetration of the western oriented thoughts in Islamic societies he said the aggressor West had to realize that Islam had not limited women, and rather, it was a duty for women in Islam to actively participate in conducting the affairs of the society.

Speaking on the role of women in the Islamic Revolution, he said Iranian women had been active in all scenes and when it was not possible for them to do so, their husbands, children and brothers were present, and hence this created such a vast transformation in them which frightened the western societies.

Praising the role of women in such spheres as homes, factories, hospitals, courts, farms, and other places, he said now Iran could justly claim that nowhere else in the world

have the women been able to gain their true values.

The seminar is to study Islamic criteria for women's employment, and the disclosure of western mass media efforts to distort the role of women in Islam.

It was suggested that the name of Mottahedin University be changed to Zahra University.

Meanwhile, a report from Karachi said that a four-member Iranian women's delegation led by Siddiqueh Rajai, widow of martyr Mohammadali Rajai arrived in Pakistan on a five-day unofficial visit Thursday.

Mrs. Siddiqueh Rajai told news reporters that the delegation in Pakistan will meet women folks aimed at bringing the two nations closer together.

The delegation, after visiting Islamabad, will leave for India on Monday.

CSO: 4600/433

MEDICAL COLLEGES REOPEN; URGED TO SPREAD ISLAM

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN, (IRNA)— Medical colleges throughout the country were opened after being closed for nearly two years. A special ceremony was held in Tehran University's Faculty's of Medicine in which members of the Cultural Revolution Headquarters, families of the martyred medical students, medical students, and the faculty staff took part.

The Dean of the Medical Faculty of Tehran university, Dr. Bigdeli, while welcoming the participants, said universities tried to train physicians whose mental bases would be empowered with spirituality so that they would be familiar with their peoples' pains and sufferings.

Following his speech, a student member of the Moslem Student Association of the Medical College spoke and said while the U.S.'s various plots were in process, the third revolution of Iran (referring to the martyrdom of the group of 72 aides of Imam Khomeini 28th

June) guaranteed the strengthening of the bases of the Islamic Revolution.

Dr. Shariatmadari, a member of the Cultural Revolution Headquarters also addressed the gathering and said notwithstanding political reasons which aimed at directing universities toward conspiring against the leaders of the revolution, scientific motivations and the need for fundamental changes were among the principal reasons for university closures.

Speaking on the expectations from professors, he said they were expected to alter the university milieu so that students could tread the path of God and approach Him, and seek His satisfaction, and then consecrate themselves to the service of the people.

Meanwhile, according to another report from Isfahan, a number of faculties including medicine, laboratory sciences, dentistry, nursing, pharmaceutical, literature, Armenian lan-

guage and History were inaugurated.

The same report added that the inauguration ceremonies were conducted in the presence of the Head of Isfahan's Theological school, Ayatollah Khademi, Imam's representative and Isfahan's Friday Imam, Ayatollah Taheri, Isfahan's Acting Governor General, Eng. Kupaei and a group of the professors and students.

Addressing the audience,

Ayatollah Taheri said that any problems that might emerge in the universities had to be solved by legal authorities due to the fact that it was the law before which all were responsible. He added that the martyrs had dedicated their blood for the establishment of law and order in the country.

According to the same report, the Head of Isfahan's University Dr. Muhammadi thereafter delivered a speech in which he said that what mattered most was to spread the rule of Islam throughout the universities - an aim before which every professor and student stood responsible.

ELECTRIC POWER REACHES THOUSANDS OF RURAL AREAS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Mar 82 p 14

[Interview with Minister of Energy Hasan Ghafuri]

[Text] Rasht--More than 2,000 of the country's villages have been tied in to the national electrical network during the current year. Additionally, more than 200,000 hectares will be added to the country's cultivated land when four water-supply dams go into operation at the beginning of the year 1982-1983.

The morning of the day before yesterday, Dr Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, minister of energy, accompanied by Dr Zali, deputy minister of agriculture, Dr Mir-Mohammadi, deputy for forestry plans at the Forest and Pasture Organization, and several high-ranking officials from the ministry of energy, visited the Manjil district of the Rudbar city-region in order to inspect the Sepidrud dam and inspect the dam's sediment. Ghafuri gave an exclusive interview to IRNA's Rasht-center correspondent.

Concerning operation of dams existing and under construction, he said: At the beginning of 1982, about four water-supply dams will be put into operation in the summer pasturage regions of Sanandaj, Minab in Bandar 'Abbas, Zabol in Sistan, and Lar in Mazandaran. By utilizing these dams, more than 200,000 hectares will be added to the country's land under cultivation. Construction of another dam in Peptanin in Sistan va Baluchistan Province has begun. This dam will go into operation at the end of 1982.

He added: Construction of this dam is one of the biggest jobs that the engineers, technicians and technical workers from this ministry have ever begun. We hope that we will witness more of this sort of action by our experts in the country in the near future.

Concerning the number of villages tied in to the national electrical network, Dr Ghafuri said: During 1981-1982, more than 2,000 villages were connected to the country's electrical network. A total of more than 5,000 villages have come to enjoy electric light since the beginning of the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran's martyr-nourishing nation.

This number of villages is greater than the total number of villages which came to have electricity during the golden era of the hated Shahanshahi regime's government.

Concerning the ministry's future programs, the minister of energy stated: As for electricity, we have planned short-term programs to completely utilize existing power plants and to complete half-finished ones, such as those at Ramin in Ahwaz, Tabriz, Bandar 'Abbas and Esfahan. We are considering one precise long-term program through which all the country's villages will come to have light and electrical facilities during the next 10 to 20 years. For the first time this job will be planned by our country's own experts. As for the water area, there are projects being composed so that we can attain self-sufficiency in agriculture and industry by building various dams.

Concerning the ministry of energy's general policy during 1982-1983, the minister of energy stated: This ministry has focused all of its existing resources on the oppressed class, the just distribution of national resources, the utilization of electricity and water to attain greater production in industry and agriculture, the country's drinking water, and also a movement towards self-sufficiency. For these actions we are striving to really train and encourage the ministry of energy's engineers, technicians and technical workers so that they will utilize their God-given skills and abilities more confidently under the leadership of the nation's imam, the great Khomeyni, towards severing the country's dependencies.

He added: We hope to soon create an industrial exhibition in Tehran and put needed industrial parts on display. We will invite technical craftsmen and experts to build any part they can. The ministry of energy will also put all its resources at the disposal of those taking the initiative.

In the area of credits under consideration for the ministry next year, Dr Ghafuri noted: A budget of 111 billion rials is planned for electricity, and beginning credits of more than 75 billion rials for water. God willing, while our work is continuing we will succeed in getting more money allocated to this ministry as the prime minister has promised. This is because both electricity and water are considered basic factors in the growth of national industry and agriculture.

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CSO: 4640/213

MINISTER REPORTS ON STATUS OF WHEAT PRODUCTION, IMPORTS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 14 Mar 82 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Salamati]

[Text] More than 1.1 million tons of wheat have been purchased so far from the country's farmers since the beginning of the harvest purchase. In addition, more than 700 tons of the Amol-2 rice type will be distributed in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces during the coming year in order to raise the level of the rice harvest. This figure is 20 times greater than the one for the distribution of this rice type in 1981-1982.

Brother Mohammad Salamati, minister of agriculture and rural development, announced this news during an exclusive interview with IRNA's Rasht-center correspondent, and added: The level of wheat purchased can demonstrate to the United States, the superpowers and those who want to put Iran under the pressure of an economic boycott that the revolutionary country of Iran is marching towards self-sufficiency as rapidly as possible, and will no longer be in need of their exports.

Concerning the cultivation of the high-yield Amol-2 rice, he noted: The ministry of agriculture was able to obtain new figures from Amol-1, 2 and 3 and Gil-1, 2 and 3. These types of rice were formerly not planted in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces. For example, Amol-2 rice can produce the equivalent of 11 tons of rice per hectare. God willing, this can be an area in which we can raise production to such a level that we achieve self-sufficiency.

He added: During the current year about 30 tons of Amol-2 rice were distributed among the farmers for cultivation. During the coming year this figure will be 600 and 700 tons, meaning 20 times last year's figures.

Concerning the preparation, supply and distribution of fertilizer and tractors, he said: During the current year more than 1.2 million tons of chemical fertilizers were distributed among farmers and villagers. This was an increase of 100,000 tons over 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981]. In the same period 17,000 tractors were distributed to farmers, an increase of about 3,500 tractors over 1359.

In addition, the level of seed wheat distributed for planting was 120,000 tons, an increase of 35,000 tons over last year.

In this connection the minister of agriculture noted that all needed agricultural items for the coming year have been prepared and supplied by increasing beyond 1360's level, and that these items will be in the process of distribution at the beginning of the planting season. More than 1.35 million tons of chemical fertilizer is also being considered for the coming year. Pesticide will also be increased 10 to 20 percent over 1360's level.

Concerning traditional stockraising in the country's tribal regions, brother Salamati said: The ministry of agriculture's policy towards traditional stockraising is that traditional and industrialized stockraising must be strengthened and expanded. This program is a part of the ministry of agriculture's 19-fold policy. In this connection, about three breeds of indigenous cow are being considered. The stock will be improved and bred in large numbers and distributed among the villagers. Similarly some native breeds of chicken will be bred and distributed through the help of the Reconstruction Crusade. Thus in the coming year we can have an increase of 20 to 30 percent in the breeding and distribution of native stock compared to 1360. Furthermore, these actions can be useful from the standpoints of supply, protein and milk production. Concerning the level of cotton being cultivated in the country, the minister of agriculture stated: Unfortunately, from the revolution's victory until one or two years ago, cotton production has no noticeable increase due to the indefinite state of ownership and some existing agricultural insufficiencies. However, during the current year, through the prompt distribution of fertilizer, insecticide and other necessities, the level of land under cultivation rose 40 to 50 percent, and the harvest also increased 35 to 40 percent. The amount of cotton harvested in 1360 was nearly 80,000 tons. This figure nearly answers the needs of our domestic industries. It is predicted that next year's harvest will be bigger than this year's

Regarding agricultural land under cultivation during 1981-1982, brother Salamati noted: During the current year about 2 million hectares went under cultivation. The figure for 1982-1983 will show a noticeable increase over 1981-1982's due to the advance of Islam's warriors.

Concerning fishing and fisheries' affairs, he said: As for the southern fisheries, a five-year program is being put together which will increase the scale of production from industrial fishing and from traditional fishing in particular, by providing equipment and creating central facilities for production and breeding. Thus positive steps are being taken towards supplying protein to the country. Programs are also being prepared for the northern fisheries so that our fishermen will no longer lack fish. The influence of middlemen in fish sales will also be lessened. Thus through precise programs the government will be able to supply fish in various parts of the country while simultaneously controlling the price of fish.

At the end of this interview with IRNA's Rasht-center correspondent, concerning the ministry's development and current credits, the minister of

agriculture said: The ministry's developmental budget amounts to 47 billion rials. Through the expenditure and absorption of this budget, agricultural infrastructural work will take place directly. The level of current credits is about 35 billion rials.

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CSO: 4640/213

BRIEFS

EMBASSY PRACTICES--News agencies have reported from Paris that Mohammad Hoseyn Naqdi, former charge d'affaires in Khomeyni's Embassy in Italy who resigned from his post in protest of the medieval policy of the ruling mullahs, said in a press conference: The Islamic Republic's embassies are actually considered to be centers for spying, sabotage, terrorism and plotting against opponents of Khomeyni's regime. Khomeyni's resigned charge d'affaires in Italy added that in order to prevent its inevitable downfall, the regime ruling Iran has no alternative but to sell military equipment abroad so that it can receive foreign exchange. Mohammad Hoseyn Naqdi also revealed that people who are sent as students to various capitals of the world are actually spies, saboteurs and terrorists who are assigned to investigate foreign writers and correspondents and to identify antiregime students and create inconveniences for them. He added that when he was the regime's charge d'affaires in Italy the clerical Foreign Ministry would send him a list every week of opponents of the clerical regime abroad so that instead of renewing the passports of these people he should confiscate them. Mohammad Hoseyn Naqdi also revealed that last week, simultaneous with the publication of the report that he had resigned from his post in Khomeyni's Embassy in Rome, his brother was arrested by revolution guards in Tehran. [Text] [NC240905 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 23 Apr 82]

IMAM CONDEMNS PLOT--According to the reporter of the Central News unit of Bandar 'Abbas, the majestic Friday prayers, this unique and unifying factor of the Muslims, were held in the imam mosque of Bandar 'Abbas. They were led by Hojjat Ol-eslam Qanbari, acting Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas and attended by a large number of God's devotees. While condemning the treacherous act of Qotbzadeh's abortive coup, this U.S. lackey, and Mr Shari'atmadari in his second sermon, he explained the facts regarding the fraudulent acts of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution and added: Since the aftermath of the revolution, the foes of the Islamic Republic and the enemies of our martyr-nurturing nation mustered all their mental, moral and material resources for the dismantling of the Islamic Republic of Iran, but were oblivious to the fact that until you are ever present on the scene and are carrying the Islamic Revolution forward under the noble leadership of the exalted imam Khomeyni, world oppression will not be able to inflict the slightest harm on the sacred revolution. [Excerpts] [GF241623 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Apr 82]

RESIDENTS DEMAND TRIAL--The martyr-nurturing residents of Ramshir staged a massive protest march to denounce U.S. elements whose aim, since the revolution, has been to topple the Islamic government, and renewed their pledge to support the Velayat-e Faqih, while demanding that the sold-out pawns of the United States and the elements of a U.S. (?conspiracy) be tried. [Text] [GF241743 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Apr 82]

AFGHANS TO HOLD DEMONSTRATION--According to the Central News unit, the Interior Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it has given permission to those Afghan Muslims who were forced to leave their homes to hold an orderly demonstration and limited march on 27 April on the anniversary of the Marxist coup d'etat in Afghanistan in order to protest against the injustices that they have suffered. The march will begin at Khorasan and Baharestan squares and will terminate at Imam Hoseyn square. The marches will start at 0900 and end before noon. All Muslim and revolutionary Afghan brothers and sisters are asked to observe order and the standards of the Islamic Republic of Iran and not to permit subversive persons and groups to disrupt order and damage their reputation by penetrating their ranks. Also, the honorable compatriots are asked to be on alert and to cooperate with the security forces by maintaining order, reporting any form of suspicious activities and preventing any actions outside the specified time and geographic limitations. [Excerpts] [LD262016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 82]

CSO: 4640/263

DANGERS OF ELECTING POWERLESS PRESIDENT DISCUSSED

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Feb 82 p 2

[Article by Amil Khuri: "The Candidates for the Presidency Must Renounce the Post If the Big Powers Do Not Leave it to Them to Solve the Crisis"]

[Text] The industrialists, merchants, companies, capitalists and even the Ministry of Finance are awaiting the results of the presidential elections to act in their light.

Amir Faruq Abu al-Lama', director general of public security, stated in a television interview: "Were 60 presidents of the republic to succeed one another while the conspiracy against Lebanon continued, they would be unable to resolve the Lebanese crisis; on the other hand, if quiet settles down, anyone could be the president of the country. The question does not stem only from the administration but from the international circumstances that are hindering the solution and from the agreement of the two big powers."

This statement is in line with reality. However, what the director general of public security did not say, in the opinion of political circles, is that if the solution is in the hand of the two giants, and if the candidates for the presidency are not johnny come latelies, seeking the title and the glory, they should refuse to be honorary presidents and demand that the solution be put in their hands; otherwise, they should refuse to be candidates and to accept the post.

If there is anyone among the candidates for the presidency who will accept the post whether the country lives or is destroyed or whether the crisis is solved or not, such a situation will encourage those who are hatching the conspiracy to continue with it rather than to take an interest in ending it.

The same circles add that any candidate for the presidency who wants to promote the interests of the country over his own should ask: What is the solution and how and when and will the "deterrent force" remain in Lebanon and will the government continue to be dependent on its presence to maintain security? When will the army be fully equipped and manned and capable of maintaining the security of the country, defending the homeland, ending any illegal presence and taking on itself alone the responsibility for extending the sovereignty of the state over every inch of Lebanese territory with the agreement of all? He should also ask: When will the rule of the mini-states

end and the law become master and the state's authority become supreme? When will the direct and indirect Israeli occupation end and Sa'd Haddad's forces withdraw to be replaced by troops of the legitimate authorities? When will the authority of the state return and when will Lebanon again be a unified, single entity?

The answer to these questions by people of influence is that if the person who defines acceptance or rejection of the post of president really wants to rule, not just to own but not rule, the president-makers ought not to have the right to subject the candidates to a test and to answer specific questions. The candidates do not have the right to raise questions so that they can decide on the basis of the answer whether to continue or drop their candidacy. If the solution is in fact in the hands of active international forces, not in the hands of any president of the republic, it is up to the candidate for the presidency. If the president of the republic fails to meet the conditions, he can refuse to remain and can resign, toppling the game of those who are playing with the destinies of the country.

When President Sarkis accepted the post of president, he thought that he would have an army in 6 months or a year with which to rule and that he would then be able to dispense with the services of the "deterrent force." This is what he revealed to a political leader who was visiting him to extend congratulations. However, the leader told him at the time that as long as he did not have a pledge that the "deterrent force" would withdraw on a specific date, it would not be easy to rebuild the army in difficult and complex security conditions and, therefore, he might remain without an army for 4 or more years.

So that the next president can avoid a repetition of what happened to President Sarkis who did not believe that he would take over the management of an intractable crisis rather than taking over the running of the country and suffer what none of his predecessors had, the candidates for the presidency must request a program for solving the crisis and seek out its details as a prerequisite for accepting the post. If there is no solution but only a continuation of the present situation, all the candidates and all the active leadership elements as well must take a position of solidarity in rejecting an honorary presidency for Lebanon in the hope that this refusal will constitute a means of pressure on those who are toying with the destiny of the country and are getting pleasure from torturing it so that they will hasten to find a solution and rid Lebanon of its agony. However, if those who are hatching the conspiracies and the crisis-makers find someone among the leading elements of Lebanon to manage the crisis and to be satisfied with continuing it in return for getting the chair of the presidency, they will not hesitate to continue their plotting.

What Is On the List of Conditions of the President-makers?

Big institutions have the right to lay out a list of conditions as they wish for completion of their projects but contractors who respect themselves and their reputations have the right to refuse to submit bids if they do not like the list of conditions. Is there among the candidates for the presidency one who will reject the list of conditions laid out for the next 6 years if it

does not contain a solution to the crisis or are there upstarts whose only interest is getting in power even if they do not rule?

This gives rise to the necessity of urging each candidate to announce his program or to announce his support and his sponsorship of a program submitted to him so as to cut the ground from under the upstarts and make each candidate abide by implementing the program which was announced and which involved an interim solution for the crisis.

The year 1982, the year of the presidential elections, the big honor, will determine the future and the destiny of Lebanon, not just for 6 years but for years and years to come.

While Lebanon and the Lebanese, merchants, industrialists, businessmen and workers, have been able to bear the burdens of the crisis for 7 years, they cannot stand for it to continue another year. It would be better for Lebanon to remain without a president of the republic if he is asked to be an honorary president and for Lebanon to die of heart failure and get its ease than to die of cancer while waiting for the time when the scientists will find a cure for this disease.

When President Sarkis received a delegation of socialist deputies from the European parliament, he told it that Lebanon's endurance was almost exhausted. This statement coming from the president means that this tortured country is now unable to continue to bear its cross on the long road to Golgotha.

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CSO: 4404/338

LEBANON

RAYMOND IDDIH LISTS CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENCY

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1323, 12 Mar 82 pp 14-15

[Interview in Paris with Raymond Iddih by 'Adil Malak: "I Want to be an Effective President, Not a Chief Clerk"--date not specified]

[Text] The speeches of Brigadier Raymond Iddih do not grow old but remain new in terms of his concepts and approaches. However, the problem with the Brigadier is a media problem; he is not above using digression, long-windedness and elaboration, and the use of the gibe and the "sting."

AL-HAWADITH met with the Brigadier in Paris and discussed two principal matters with him: South Lebanon and the presidential campaign. Here is the text of the interview:

[Question] We begin with the south. You were the first to demand a settlement in South Lebanon and the first to demand that UN forces be brought in. What is your comment on the recent Security Council resolution to add 1,000 new troops to the forces stationed there?

[Answer] This is true. I was the first to demand UN forces for the South That came about as a result of the attack by Israeli commandoes on Beirut airport on 27 December 1968. On that day, I resigned from the quadripartite government during the term of President Charles Helu because its prime minister, 'Abdullah al-Yafi, opposed that proposal requesting UN forces, at a time when circumstances were most propitious for that request. It is true that we submitted a complaint to the Security Council, but the prime minister was determined in his position and refused to have the government request UN forces. If the government had agreed, and a small group of Lebanese had not opposed my proposal at that time, we would not be where we are now. Another thing: In 1980, I obtained a map of South Lebanon that clearly showed a change in the positions of the UN forces. There was a UN force in the South Litani area and another force in the Eastern Litani area. Between these two positions, there was a gap. There is a blank space on the map. This space is now occupied by Sa'd Haddad's army and elements from the Israeli Army. This interested me considerably. I called some officials' attention to it, including our representative to the UN, Ghassan Tuwayni. I also brought it to the attention of the French Foreign Ministry, both in the previous and

in the current regimes. I told them of the seriousness of this matter and bluntly told the French: You have been victimized in South Lebanon, the more so if you have troops killed there. If you now want to preserve the integrity of Lebanon, you must plug this gap. It is my personal opinion that it is necessary for the UN forces to abut, so that there will be no separation between the two and to cover the obvious blank space on the map. At this point, the Israeli Army will not risk a clash with the UN forces to enter Lebanon north of the Litani. This corridor is very dangerous because it is located only 3 km from the Israeli Army stationed in al-Metullah and along the al-Wazani as well, as I understand it. They have seized 6,000 dunams of land and have begun to pump the waters of the Wazani. Understand? Since 1953, I have talked so much about the Wazani, al-Hasabani and the Litani that I have become like Umm Kalthum, repeating sentences over and over. The result that we have now, from all that I have said and done, is that the French foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, said when he visited Israeli that France was prepared to increase the number of UN troops if the Lebanese Government asked the Security Council for that. By coincidence, the next day the Israeli Knesset voted to annex the Golan. At that time, I sent a telegram to Cheysson, thanking him for the suggestion that he made to Israel, but I told him: It is not Israel that needs protection but Lebanon. Israeli designs on the South go back to 1919. They are not for strategic reasons, as claimed, but for water. The Litani, of course. I have taken up this issue because the Lebanese Government is incapable, at the present time, of expressing its opinion... Therefore, I have asked France and the 10 European countries to intervene with the Security Council to increase the number of troops, to enable them to implement Resolutions 425 and 426. To this day, those two resolutions have not been fully implemented, especially Resolution 425, which stipulates the need to remove all Israeli forces from all, and I emphasize the word "all," of the territory occupied by the Israeli Army in South Lebanon.

[Question] Now the number of forces has been increased by 1,000.

[Answer] Some days ago, Resolution 501 was issued by the Security Council. Naturally, this resolution was difficult for us to obtain, in part due to the Soviet Union's position and in part due to "our ally" America's position. If America does not permit the UN forces to plug this gap, this will show that it is blind to Israel, despite its actions in Golan, its violation of Resolution 242 and its violation of everything else. It will mean also that America wants to facilitate the entry of the Israeli Army into al-Nabatiyah area, meaning north, east and west of the Litani. The important point, ultimately, as I said, is to plug this gap.

[Question] What, then, is the practical importance of increasing the number of UN forces?

[Answer] Usually, UN forces are brought in to maintain order, in accordance with Article 6 of the UN Charter. Article 7 permits these forces to engage in combat and use their weapons to implement the resolution only once. If you read Article 4 of Resolution 426, paragraph "c," you find for the first time that there is a special interpretation of the phrase "self-defense."

Of course, self-defense is found in every penal code in the world. For example, if someone attacks you, you can defend yourself and kill him. Defense in this case is legal. Here, one finds a special interpretation of self-defense. Paragraph "c" says: The UN forces have a defensive role and not offensive. But there is another paragraph, that I will read to you in French... It says that there is the possibility of these forces using force if they find themselves in a state of self-defense. This case arises whenever the UN forces encounter any opposition or resistance.

[Question] One notes from past experience that the UN forces have not used this right.

[Answer] The Security Council's weakness is that its resolutions are not implemented. The important point is how we can convince America to refrain from this blind defense of all Israel's actions, most especially the actions that violate Security Council resolutions, for which America votes. I find this strange: How can America vote for some resolution or other and accept Israel's rejection of it?

[Question] So long as this is the American-Israeli line, and so long as Israel presents the United States and the world with faits accompli, what is the South's fate then, and what is the guarantee, in light of the UN forces' inoperative role?

[Answer] There was no guarantee 2 or 3 years ago, when talk began about Arabizing the Lebanese question. Arabization, oh my brother, produced nothing! You will recall that after the incidents in the summer of 1976, a resolution was issued by the Arab League requiring the dispatch of Egyptian and Sudanese forces to replace the Syrian Army. But nothing happened. The Syrian Army was transformed into the Arab Deterrent Forces. On that day, we sent a telegram to the Arab League secretary general, Mahmud Riyadh, asking him to use forces from various Arab countries. The result was that the number of Syrian troops became 28,000 instead of the original 30,000.

We established the National Unity Front in July 1976, which included a number of Christian and Muslim delegates and all former prime ministers except one. This was the first time that the Sunni leaders in Lebanon had adopted a resolution against Syria. Today I find that due to the behavior in Lebanon, the overwhelming majority of Muslims adhere to the concept of one Lebanon, more than do the Christians. All of Lebanon--that is, don't give up the Biqa' valley to anyone, or the South, just to keep Israel happy. These matters must be understood by some of the Maronites! Today, this is the new reality: All Lebanese, except the few who want partition, demand one Lebanon and remain within a country called Lebanon, and as long as the people of the Biqa' hang on to their area, then all that remains is for us to work and begin to put an end to the Israeli situation in the South. The Arab League, as I said, has not done anything. In the past, it adopted several resolutions, including the resolutions of 1979 in Tunis, which said that the states neighboring Israel must put their borders at the disposal of the Palestinian resistance. Syria did not agree, nor did Jordan. In the end, Lebanon was the only one to sacrifice. Even the funds that Lebanon was

promised have not been paid in full. The United States, for its part, has not changed, and the sole difference is that it sent up Philip Habib. This man "beleagured, a nice man, may God grant him long life." But he did not come to save the unity of Lebanon or its wealth, but rather, he says: "Hey, boys, don't shoot at each other, and those missiles in the Biqa', for my sake get them out, because we don't want any problems." This, in short, is the mission that Habib is trying to carry out.

[Question] Let's go back to one of the subjects that I raised before and upon which there is agreement. I mean the Cairo agreement between the Lebanese Government and the Palestinian resistance. Chamber of Deputies President Kamil al-Asad announced last week that he considers this agreement to be as good as dead.

[Answer] Announced?

[Question] Yes, he announced it officially on television. What is your comments?

[Answer] First, this is the first time that I've heard this statement. As you know, the National Bloc Party was the only Lebanese party to approve the agreement in 1969. The reason was that the agreement was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies secretly, and the members were asked to approve it. This had not happened since the days of the Phoenicians, and no one accepted it. I went to President Helu at that time and told him that this action was inconceivable. He said: "If you will become a minister, I will read you its contents." I replied: "You know me, Mr President. I previously resigned from the government of 'Abdullah al-Yafi because he refused to ask for UN forces." The result was that he refused to show me the text, and I rejected the ministerial post. My place was taken by Maurice al-Jummayil. I said at that time, Is it reasonable that the driver of Abu 'Ammar's car can read the agreement while I, the head of a party, a deputy and a former minister, cannot? This was humiliating. In the end, the important point was that the cabinet approved it without reading its contents. Yes, no one read the original text. Therefore, I rejected the agreement, along with the deputies of my party, simply because it had to be voted on without being read. I rejected it on the basis that it was incompatible with the truce agreement, or the agreement that perhaps is the sole guarantee, because there was something hidden behind it. By signing the "Cairo Agreement," we allowed Israel to consider the truce agreement nullified, and we opened the door for them to enter Lebanon. I congratulate the head of the legislative authority, if he made this statement. But it is not important that only the head of the chamber says this; it would be important if the president and the foreign minister said it. "The Cairo Agreement," as I said, contradicts the truce agreement, and we want to maintain this agreement, because it gives us our only chance to go to the Security Council and expose Israel.

[Question] There are popular and parliamentary circles that nominated you for the presidency. What is your position regarding this nomination, and are you in fact a candidate for the presidency?

[Answer] First, the word "nomination," from the legal aspect, is inappropriate, since the process for nomination for the presidency does not exist, such as there is for nomination for chamber membership. However, people have become used to saying "so-and-so" is a nominee for the presidency.

Second, I thank the Lebanese people of all groups for the confidence that they show in me. This was evident in the referendum that was recently held.

[Question] We repeat the question, and we want a direct answer from you, Brigadier.

[Answer] I will give you a reply, but the matter is not one of merely agreeing or disagreeing. The important point, if I say yes or no to being a candidate, is that my reasons must convince the Lebanese, along with myself, that I want to say it. I am a candidate, yes, but I have my conditions. Usually, the candidate accepts the conditions imposed on him, but I have my conditions, three of them:

1. Withdrawal of the Israeli Army, in advance, from all the territory it occupies in the south.
2. Withdrawal of the Syrian Army, in advance, from all Lebanese territory.
3. Replacement of the Syrian Army by multinational forces, formed from outside the Security Council, in order to avoid the Soviet veto, and composed of Arab forces, excluding Syrian forces, or joint Arab-European forces. You might ask at this point: If the Israelis withdraw and the Syrians go, and international forces take their place, what matters will be left to the jurisdiction of the future president?

I shall answer: What's left? The 50,000 or 30,000 Palestinians, armed and present in Lebanon, are left. The 63 armed Lebanese and non-Lebanese organizations inside and outside of Beirut are left. The Phalange militias, armed with heavy weapons, are left. The serious action that must be taken before amending the constitution, or amending the commercial and penal codes, etc, is to restore authority to the Lebanese Army. There is nothing easier. How, for example, can we get the Israeli Army to withdraw? The Security Council is incapable of doing this. America does not want to. So long as this army is present, the pretext remains for the Syrian Army not to leave Lebanon. When the Israeli Army withdraws, that pretext is gone, especially since, in accordance with the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo summits, President Elias Sarkis has the right to ask President Hafiz al-Asad to withdraw his army, and he must comply with this request. His recent statement, published in one of the Kuwaiti newspapers, states that "the Syrian Army will be withdrawn when the interests of the nation and the interests of the government require it." What government? The Syrian Government, evidently.... Therefore, these are my conditions, because I don't want to be a "chief clerk" president, nor do I intend to be a bureaucrat and take orders from anyone.

These are matters that I have determined for myself, if I become president. I and the Chamber of Deputies and my government. I have not yet made the

final decision regarding my candidacy. I am waiting for 25 April, the day of the Israeli army withdrawal from the Sinai. I do not believe that Israel will withdraw from all of the Sinai, possibly because Israel is afraid that Egypt will return to the Arabs after withdrawal. Accordingly, I am waiting to see what happens. Anything can happen with a person like Begin. The important point is that the three conditions be achieved so that I can work for the betterment of Lebanon and halt the partition, which is in fact happening. The Phalange now has its own courts and is collecting state customs. It is said that its income from the fifth port in 1981 was LL 1.7 million, and evidently, no one is alarmed at this.

[Question] How do we reach a solution to this crisis then?

[Answer] I cannot be a savior if I come and the Israeli Army is here and the Syrian Army is here, since probably on the second day that I am in the presidency the campaign of blowing up embassies would begin. What would I do? The army is unable to take action because there is no one protecting its rear. I could not call on the Lebanese abroad to return to Lebanon, nor could I protect them. This is a great responsibility for me.

[Question] Do you think that your insistence on your conditions means that Lebanon will have to accept an ordinary president in an extraordinary stage of its history? This is just what the Lebanese do not need at this time.

[Answer] First, you know that the Lebanese people are not the ones who elect the president. You know how the process of election works in the chamber. You know how Elias Sarkis was elected president and was forced to divide the constitutional right in Shtawrah. He is not surrounded by the Lebanese Army. I cannot agree to something like this. I cannot pretend not to notice many things and ignore many others. I want to satisfy my conscience before all else. The presidency is not new to me. He who was president knows better how to begin the presidency, continue it and end it. What I am saying to you now is the result of constant thinking for more than a year, since they began to talk about the presidential campaign. Another thing. Don't be afraid of a vacancy. There are 103 candidates from the Maronites, three candidates from the Orthodox Catholics and one Catholic candidate. Among them, you will find someone who will accept the presidency. There are also those who are thinking about amending the constitution, to extend the term of President Sarkis. Some say that President Sarkis was not capable of doing anything. No, it was his place to carry on the Lebanese case and publicize it throughout the world and then to submit it to the Security Council. If he failed to ensure the honor of Lebanon and its sovereignty, then he should submit his resignation and leave Ba'bda Palace. For my part, I will either be president of the republic, in every sense of the word, or I will not be. In any event, I will continue to serve my country as I serve it now. You know that I am preoccupied, night and day, with Lebanon. I am not concerned about the law. Naturally, I am not preoccupied with business, because I don't understand it. Another thing, I don't believe in something called consensus, only in something called the majority. There are several other factors that play a role in the election. In 1952, Camille Sham'un became president after the English switched to support him. Fu'ad Shihab came as a result of an

agreement between America and 'Abd-al-Nasir. Charles Helou became president without a hitch because foreigners at that time were uninterested. The sole person who won without foreign intervention, in my opinion, was Sulayman Franjiyah, because he won by a majority of one vote. If there was any foreign intervention, he would not have won by only one vote. As for Elias Sarkis, do you know how he reached the presidency?

[Question] Can we express the view that new factors might occur after 25 April that might induce you to reconsider your decision on the presidential campaign?

[Answer] I repeat. I will only accept the presidency in the full sense of the word, with all of the authority of the president of the republic and without the presence of any foreign army on Lebanese soil, only the Lebanese Army. If there are multinational forces, they must not have any designs on Lebanon. I want one Lebanon, a democratic Lebanon, a free Lebanon, a sovereign Lebanon, a Lebanon in which Islam and Christianity can co-exist. Do you understand me, professor?

[Question] If we were to imagine that the Chamber of Deputies met and elected you president in your presence or in your absence, would you refuse?

[Answer] He does not let up...

[Question] Would you refuse?

[Answer] I will put you in the picture. The only thing that concerns me is my conscience. Perhaps I have been the one politician who knows all about the Lebanese republic. I am prepared to sacrifice myself in anything for my country. But with the stipulation that this sacrifice has the desired result for all of the Lebanese. Therefore, I will tell you right out that I will not accept my election as president, even if this election took place when I was abroad, until after the removal of the Israeli Army and the removal of the Syrian Army, so that international or multinational forces can take their place.

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INDUSTRIAL DIFFICULTIES, SUBSIDIES EXAMINED AGAINST BACKDROP OF WAR

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 2 Feb 82 p 6

[Article by 'Isam al-Jardi: "Where Have Lebanese Industries Reached in Wake of Events; Industries Benefiting From Subsidy Suffer Setback Before Others; Exaggeration of Problems Is Endeavor To Generalize Damage That Is Not General"]

[Text] Perhaps the main dangers facing the Lebanese industrial sector and its workers at present lie in the closure of establishments, in the partial or total worker layoffs, in the Lebanese economy's loss of its basic production components and of its future growth opportunities and in the subsequent economic and social crises.

Naturally, the case of the plywood plant in al-Bahsas could represent nothing but a model that can, and has been, repeated in other establishments. The latest such case is the case of the 'Usayli textile plant, which has notified the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the gradual layoff of 450 workers in preparation for shutting down.

Earlier, there were the cases of the Ghandur wood plant in the North, the Jabr textiles plant in al-Hadath, the chemical company in al-Shuwayfat and numerous similar establishments that have reduced or suspended their activities.

Reasons Different, Closure the Same

But does the entire cause of the closure of the industrial establishments lie in the reasons cited by the industrialists--reasons beginning with smuggling, loan interest payments during the events, rising energy costs and the absence of incentives offered by the state for the creation of a relatively strong and stable industry and ending with the campaign to flood the market with imported foreign goods competing with Lebanese industry's local production?

It is certain that the said obstacles have directly affected certain industrial sectors and will affect them still more if the security and political situation continues to be uncertain.

However, details of the problems of which industry complains can be summed up in the following:

Who Smuggles?

First, the problem of smuggling has been in existence since the outset of the events and is not a new problem, even though it has a stronger impact at present. The state, which shoulders the main responsibility for the spread of smuggling that takes place even in the official ports, especially Beirut port, and in the presence of official agencies--the state is the party damaged most by the wave of smuggling. This smuggling has cost the state 1 billion pounds annually as a result of the loss of customs fees. This loss has consequently increased the state's financial deficits and has forced it to borrow internally from the private sector and from the Bank of Lebanon to meet its essential expenditures.

But some of the industrialists themselves are also responsible to a certain extent for encouraging this smuggling. Some of these industrialists turned into merchants in a short time, began to import through illegal channels and reduced their local production for no reason other than to take advantage of the absence of customs controls. At the same time, these industrialists have continued to demand an end to the smuggling operations and to demand that the legitimate authority spread its control over the official ports, not forgetting to also demand closure of the illegal ports!

Moreover--and this leads us to talk of the imported goods flooding the market and competing with the local production and of the industrialists' demand that the state confine its purchases to local production--some industrialists have tried repeatedly, and have actually succeeded in some cases, to sell the state imported goods as if they were local production. Some industrialists say that such operations are still repeated every now and then by a number of influential industrialists.

Even the Lebanese Industrialists Association's statements and repeated memoranda to the state have addressed the smuggling issue very timidly, perhaps for reasons with an economic background, whereas it is noted that these statements and memoranda strongly demand all kinds of things that could further burden the Lebanese consumer and the state treasury as a whole, such as electricity and oil subsidies, aid, loans, soft-interest terms and all kinds of other demands.

The industrialists must take a more courageous stand on smuggling, and they are capable of taking such a stand for numerous considerations, including their position as a majority in the face of those who control the ports, both official and illegal ports. We say this without relieving the state from its major responsibility in this regard.

Loans and Interest

Second, the industrialists have greatly exaggerated the issue of loans and loan interest payments due for repayment during the events. Everything

has become confused and the industrialist whose movable and immovable assets have been actually damaged and who can no longer continue his work without state aid through new legislation to reschedule the loan and interest repayments--legislation whose implementation is guaranteed by the state--has been equated with the industrialist who has incurred no comprehensive loss and at times even with the industrialist who has incurred no loss at all, unless we consider the profit estimates of this or that industrialist as the damage incurred and the damage that puts him on an equal footing with the industrialist whose establishment and equipment have actually been hit, who has lost his export markets abroad, who is unable to compete with the foreign goods in the local market and who, meanwhile, strains under the burden of bank loans and interest.

When legislative decree No 130 of 1977 concerning the settlement of loans of the first phase of the 5-year events was issued, no more than 15 percent, maximum, of the indebted industrialists resorted to this legislation, whereas 85 percent of pending disputes over loan issues were settled through agreement between the industrialist concerned and the loaning banks. Consequently, the said legislative decree did nothing to change the problem of industrial loans and interest.

At the time, industrialist complained that the executive decrees of legislative decree No 130 were strict and did not give harmed and indebted industrialists the opportunity to benefit from the provisions of the basic legislation. The complaint was based on the documents and statements demanded by the executive decree to justify an industrialist's use of the legislative decree. Many industrialists refused to present the required documents, considering the presentation of such documents a disclosure of their financial and industrial positions even though legislative decree No 130 defines harmed industrialists as the beneficiaries of its provisions [i.e., makes such disclosures mandatory].

This is not the first time the industrialists have taken such a stance. The plan for the industrial survey to determine the industrial map in the wake of the events--a plan embraced by the Arab Industrial Development Organization at the request of the General Directorate of Industry--has been faced with the same stance and has been confined to superficial data that does not reflect the industrial reality. A similar plan initiated by the Lebanese Industrialists Association itself has faced the same difficulties because the industrialists have refused to supply their association with the necessary information on their establishments at a time when official statistics--which must constitute the basis of any plan to deal with industrial problems in the wake of the events--are not available.

There are those who say that the events and the security flareups taking place after 1977, that is, after issuance of the first legislative decree to settle the debts incurred during the events, have superceded this legislation both qualitatively and quantitatively. This likelihood is perhaps interpreted in the issuance of a new law at the end of 1981 to reschedule repayment of the loans owned by those harmed by the events.

All of the possibilities indicate this time that implementation of the above law will be no different than the implementation of legislative decree No 130 as evidenced by the fact that the banks and the industrialists have underlined their demand to benefit from the provisions of the new law even in cases where agreement by consent is reached between the bank and the industrialist and without the two sides referring to the arbitration committee stipulated by the law and empowered to settle disputes between the debtor and the indebted when such disputes develop.

Even though the state, represented by the Bank of Lebanon, will play the main role in the facilities that the banks will offer the harmed indebted industrialists by guaranteeing payment of part of the interest owed by them in return for extension of the bank bonds, there has been renewed complaint over the law's executive conditions. This complaint is no different in essence from the complaint voiced by the industrialists over legislative decree No 130 and legislative decree No 131, which offered the industrial, tourist and medical establishments special loans amounting to 400 million pounds.

It is axiomatic that the state would consider more than one case in implementing the new law on rescheduling the loans owed by harmed industrialists:

A. The case of the industrialist whose establishment, assets and warehouses have been hit directly but whose export markets remain open in case he resumes his activity.

B. The case of the industrialist who has lost his export markets because he has breached his agreements and has not been able to meet the demand during the events for security reasons, even though his assets and his equipment have sustained no immediate damage.

C. The case of the industrialist whose production has dropped because he has lost his skilled workers and technicians, who left the country during the periods of work stoppage.

D. The industrialist to whom all three cases apply.

E. The industrialist whose establishment has been totally or partially destroyed but who still owns one or more establishments in the industrial or commercial sectors and who can start again using his own financial resources.

The question here is: Who determines who is harmed, the industrialist or the industrial establishment?

Financing

This is insofar as debts and loan interest during the events are concerned. As for industrial financing and for setting up the banking structures concerned with medium- and long-range financing, the state shoulders a responsibility in this regard because the few existing banks of this type

do not have the financing capability needed by the industry, especially in the wake of the events. Some of these banks, which get special attention from the state, are almost a burden to the state and are unable to perform the task required of them.

The creation of private banks specializing in medium- and long-range loans will continue to falter as long as the incentives given the ordinary commercial banks are unavailable to the other type of banks. This problem will not be solved without the direct intervention and guidance of the state, either through legislation or through other incentives.

Subsidy--How and Why?

Third, though it is logical, even essential, for the state to introduce legislation and laws and to resort to providing incentives to encourage national industry, the issue of subsidy and of the protection policy is a totally different issue. This issue is closely connected with this or that subsidized industry's position and with its ability to continue in the future after having built its infrastructure in the subsidized phase. This issue is also connected with the economic and social yield of the protection policy at the general national level.

As for directly subsidizing an industry, if such subsidy is not within the framework of a general industrial plan with predetermined goals for a set or open period, (depending on the requirements of the general situation) [sentence incomplete], and if the subsidy and protection policy are adopted in a haphazard manner, then the consequences will inevitably be in total conflict with the goals.

The best examples of this are the textile industry and the wood furniture industry.

Up to 1967, the state had not adopted a policy of protection or direct subsidy for industry.

On 5 August 1967, legislative decree No 63 was issued. This decree levied a 10-percent fee above the customs fees imposed on certain kinds of imported textiles, clothing, rugs, linens and carpets. The fee was allocated for the benefit of the fund to enhance textile and yarn exports. The revenues of this fund were then allocated for the benefit of Lebanese exports of the same imported types.

This legislative decree continued in force until nearly the end of October 1973 when it was suspended due to the fund's increasing deficits.

During the subsidy period, the textile and yarn industry expanded considerably, taking advantage of the direct subsidy given it.

Excluding cotton yarn containing 80 percent or more cotton, the subsidized types enjoyed protection ranging from 12.6 Lebanese pounds per kilogram of

underwear, synthetic fibers and outer clothing manufactured from synthetic fibers to 21 percent [as published] for towels, based on value. The protection rate ranged mostly between 25 and 36 percent, which is a high rate.

Subsidized Exports

The volume of subsidized exports rose from 1,179 tons in 1967 to 11,134 tons in 1973 (with an annual increase rate of 34.5 percent), and the value of exports rose from 11.3 million pounds to 127.5 million pounds. During the same period, unsubsidized exports rose at an annual growth rate of 16.7 percent in terms of volume and 14.3 percent in terms of value (see chart No 1).

The growth in textile and yarn exports was accompanied by a change in the composition of those exports. Moreover, the subsidy encouraged new investments in the sector and helped attract capital and manpower in an extraordinary manner, so that growth rates in the sector were enhanced. The aid advanced in the form of a subsidy for textiles and yarn came to constitute a large part of the added value and this gave this sector's industrialists a great competitive capacity, regardless of developments in their establishments and improvements and modernization in their production (chart No 2).

As in the case of the textiles and yarn industry, the wooden furniture industry also got a high degree of direct protection and subsidy. A fee of 25 Lebanese pounds was levied on every kilogram of imported wooden furniture, in addition to the condition of the advanced permit required for importation.

As a result of this large-scale subsidy, nearly 375 wooden furniture plants came into existence, most of them located in al-Mukallas area and its vicinity.

But the wooden furniture subsidy was also abolished over interspersed periods. The fees levied on imported textiles and wooden furniture were the cause of a major conflict between the merchants harmed by this policy and the industrialists benefiting from it.

Why Textiles and Wood?

It is thus obvious that it is no coincidence that the industrial sector's economic and social problems began in the textile and wood industries and their derivatives.

Then the events came to intensify the economic problems of the two industries. Meanwhile, the previous subsidy policy was not a programmed policy with specific goals, as we have pointed out. Instead of encouraging the industrialist to develop his establishment and modernize his equipment and production, the subsidy caused many of the textile and wood production establishments to lag behind and to fail to keep up with and adopt modern

developments and production technology, with the exception of very few plants.

One aspect of the current problem of the plywood plant, which in marketing its production depends on the local wooden furniture factories, is that the business owner has tied payment of the 13th month bonus to realizing an annual production of 30,000 tons, whereas actual production did not reach this level in 1980. The workers say that the plant management is responsible for the drop in production because it has failed for a long time to develop plant equipment, as well as the plant's administrative and financial work. This applies to numerous other industrial establishments.

Thus, some establishments that have begun to lay off workers and to close their doors in recent months are the establishments whose conditions were not stable before and that lived for many years on an unconditional subsidy.

The renewed projection of the issue of subsidizing industrial exports at the present time will inevitably arouse strong opposition on the part of the Beirut Merchants Association, considering that the importers will shoulder the fees levied to protect industry.

This appeared clearly in the memorandum sent by the chairmen of the economic organizations to the president of the republic on the issue of subsidizing industry. It has become known that the memorandum, signed by the chairmen of the economic organizations, does not carry the signature of the chairman of the Beirut Merchants Association, who believes that "commerce has been hurt more than industry and needs help to rebuild its markets in the capital."

But has the closure been confined to the industries actually hurt?

This is debatable, especially since industrial establishments suffering no noteworthy damage as a result of the events have reduced the number of their workers. Some of them have even shut down completely and dismissed their workers (the National Chemical Industries Company in al-Shuwayfat). The official estimates of the Ministry of Industry and Petroleum show that the chemical and plastics industries and affiliated industries continued their activities successfully, that their markets remained open during the events and that their 1981 exports recorded an increase of nearly 25 percent compared with 1980.

Ministry of Industry and Petroleum statistics also show that 31 industrial licenses were issued in 1981 for projects valued at 54.38 million pounds and with equipment and machinery valued at 25 million pounds.

Emigration of Capabilities

It seems that part of the current industrial campaign launched under the slogan of the damage inflicted on the national industry is not compatible with reality, or at least with full reality. A considerable number of industrialists left Lebanon for good during the events and started industrial projects in the Arab Gulf markets and even in Canada and the two

Americas. Those industrialists took with them large amounts of capital, refusing to take any risks, even during the first 3 years of the events. Other industrialists launched joint projects abroad.

Even though the industrialists complain about the shortage of experienced and skilled labor--a problem that has also begun to grow and to assume the form of a current and future obstacle in the face of the development of Lebanese industry--the workers have always been the victims enduring the direct ramifications of the layoffs and closures that have forced the available capabilities to go abroad in search of better work opportunities and higher pay.

If the current situation persists, there will be a further drain of labor, especially of skilled labor, and it will not be easy to make up for this loss in the short range, especially since the human element was one of the elements leading to the development and progress of Lebanese industry from the onset of 1960 up to the middle 70's.

Whereas the number of industrial workers amounted to 95,000 workers in 1970, according to the labor statistics issued by the Central Statistical Directorate, and rose, according to initial estimates, to 150,000 workers before the start of the events in 1975, it is expected that this figure has generally dropped by nearly half at present. The rate of emigration among skilled workers totals more than 60 percent.

In return for the positive results produced by labor emigration at the financial level and at the level of the surplus realized by the Lebanese balance of payments, despite the events, as a result of the remittances from abroad, the negative consequences of the emigration of skilled craftsmen will be much greater in the phase of reconstruction.

Persistence in saddling industrial workers with the burdens of the war bears within its folds not only social and economic dangers capable of further complicating the existing problems in this field but also deprives the Lebanese economy of major growth opportunities.

It is not yet known how it is permissible to compare the worker who possesses nothing other than his labor to earn his wages with the "harmed industrialist" who has refused and continues to refuse to pay a part of the penalty under the darkest conditions ever experienced by the country whereas he benefited from the spoils in the years of abundance and prosperity!

Pressure of 'Plywood'

Exaggeration of the issue of the plywood factory in al-Bahsas and the owners' rejection of all the proposals made by the unions and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs despite all the assurances given by the economic and political authorities in the capital of the north and in other places, despite the positive attitude displayed by the state to secure soft-term loans for the plant and despite the financial capabilities

of the plant owners (who also own a sugar plant, an iron plant and other enterprises)--this exaggeration and this rejection conceal undeclared positions that believe in the possibilities raised with the closure of the plant to the effect that the 600 workers of "Ghandur North" plant will face a "major industrial lobby" supported by obvious and well-established forces.

The needed industry is an industry that insures the realization of economic growth, that provides work opportunities (without turning such opportunities into a source for blackmailing the workers, the unions and the state to get everything) and that lays down a firm production base in the country as a prelude to the economic independence that forms the main factor in establishing political independence. This will not happen, of course, by wagering on the "good-intentioned" industrialists or others if the state has no general industrial, economic and financial policy that defines the framework and the goals and that performs the role of the watchdog guiding the course of economic building and development.

Chart No 1

Annual Growth Rate of Main Subsidized Types (1967-1973)

	Percentage according to volume	Percentage according to value
Total subsidized exports	34.5%	49.2%
Yarn	50 %	52 %
Textiles	22 %	49 %
Rugs	36 %	43 %
Linens and blankets	33 %	36 %
Underwear	-	55 %
Outer clothing	43 %	52 %
Unsubsidized exports	16.7%	14.3%

1974 Study by National Industrial and Tourist Development Bank

Chart No 2

Development of Exports and Prices of Subsidized and Unsubsidized
Types and Total Exports of Textile and Yarn Industry

(Volume in tons; value in 1,000 pounds)

	1967		1968		1969	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
Subsidized exports	1,179	11,281	2,400	17,960	3,804	24,742
Unsubsidized exports	9,153	23,788	8,971	23,473	10,083	23,407
Industry's total exports	10,332	35,069	11,371	41,434	13,887	48,149
Average price of subsidized exports-- Lebanese pounds per Kilogram	9.57		7.48		6.50	
Average price of unsubsidized exports-- Lebanese pounds per Kilogram	2.60		2.61		2.32	
Average price of total exports--Lebanese pounds per Kilogram	3.39		3.64		3.46	
Percentage of subsidized exports to total exports	11.4	32.2	21.1	43.3	37.4	51.4

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[Chart continued]

	1970		1971		1972		1973	
	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Value</u>
	4,697	32,814	6,560	50,940	8,366	86,437	11,134	127,536
	10,487	24,433	10,938	28,587	13,888	35,870	21,677	45,125
	15,184	57,247	17,504	79,527	22,254	122,307	32,811	172,662
	6.98		7.76		10.33		11.45	
	2.32		2.61		2.58		2.08	
	3.77		4.54		5.49		5.26	
	30.9	57.3	37.5	64.1	37.6	70.6	33.9	73.9

GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS APPOINTS NEW SECRETARIES

London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 23, Apr 82 p 6

[Text]

THE GENERAL People's Congress, the Libyan legislature, met in special session on 3rd March to approve key changes in the selection procedure for Libyan Secretaries — the equivalent of ministers in traditional systems of government. There were also a number of important changes in the Jamahiriya's General Popular Committee, which performs similar functions to a cabinet in other governmental systems.

The new selection procedure will consolidate the direct democracy practiced in Libya since it will accord a greater role to the Basic People's Congresses, the local grassroots decision-making forums open to all citizens. In future, each Basic People's Congress will nominate experts in the various sectors of the economy to serve on the people's committees that administer the Libyan Secretariats. Under the Jamahiri system, Secretariats carry out the same functions as ministries in traditional countries. The people's committees will then choose the Jamahiriya's Secretaries from their numbers. Previously, Secretaries were chosen by the General People's Congress.

During January's meeting of the General People's Congress, concern was expressed at the pace of agricultural development in the Jamahiriya, and the changes instituted by the Basic People's Congresses in March reflected these anxieties. Abu Zayd Umar Durdah, formerly Economy Secretary, was appointed as Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation Secretary. Former Agriculture Secretary Bashir Jawda, Abdesalam Zaager (formerly Oil Secretary), Muhammad Mahmud Hijazi (Municipalities) and Muftah Ku'aybah (Sport) became members of the People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, each with special responsibility for a particular sector of the Jamahiriya's agricultural development programme.

New Secretaries were appointed at the Secretariats of Utilities (sometimes termed Municipalities), Oil, Planning and Sport. The Light Industry and Economy Secretariats were merged into a single Secretariat, with Musa Abu Freiwa, former Planning Secretary, as the Secretary of its People's Committee.

Two of the Jamahiriya's Secretariats — Liaison for Internal Affairs and Liaison for Foreign Affairs — have been wound up, and their Secretaries dropped from the General People's Committee. The Liaison for Internal Affairs Secretariat was established in January 1981 with responsibility for co-ordinating the affairs of the people's congresses and committees within the Jamahiriya. The Foreign Affairs Liaison Secretariat, also set up at the January 1981 meeting of the General People's Congress, was charged with co-ordinating the activities of all the people's committees formed outside Libya, and with maintaining contacts with official circles in foreign countries. All the Jamahiriya's foreign affairs will henceforth be administered by the Foreign Liaison Bureau, whose Secretary is Abdel Ati al Obeidi.

The changes in the Jamahiriya's administration mean that the number of Secretariats has been reduced from 22 to 19, in line with the calls at January's meeting of the General People's Congress for a streamlining of the civil service aimed at ending bureaucratic delays.

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BRIEFS

ETHYLENE PLANT WORK CONTINUED--The Swindon-based firm Erba Science has won a \$374,000 contract to supply a gas chromatography laboratory for the ethylene plant under construction at the Ras Lanouf petrochemicals complex. The order, placed by the Jamahiriya's Azzawiya Refinery Company, includes installation and staff training and final commissioning is due in summer. In January 1980 the Italian firm Belleli Industrie Meccaniche won a \$60 million contract to build the 330,000 tonnes per year capacity ethylene plant which is due to enter production in a few months' time. The plant will be supplied by a \$300 million oil refinery with a planned eventual capacity of 280,000 barrels per day. In 1980 Saipem, the contracting arm of the Italian state energy agency Ente Nazionale Idrocarbi, won a \$40 million contract for the first construction phase. Work started early last year and is also nearing completion. The refinery and ethylene plant are the keys for a wide range of other petrochemicals plants at the Ras Lanouf complex. Another order placed by the Libyan Jamahiriya with a British firm has just been completed. DRG Stationery of Hemel Hempstead made the final shipment of 42 container loads of business books valued at almost \$1.9 million. In 1980 the firm won a similar order worth nearly \$1 million. [Text] [London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 23, Apr 82 p 18]

NEW TOWNS PLANNED--Companies have been invited to prequalify for two major urban developments in Libya, one at Ras Lanouf on the coast, the other at Sarir, in the desert about 600 kilometres south of Benghazi. At Ras Lanouf a new town is being built for workers at the petrochemicals complex under construction nearby. Designed by the Finnish firm Dovecon, the town will have about 40,000 residents by the year 2000. Contracts for the first two stages were awarded last year to a Turkish joint venture of the Enka and Kutlutas companies. The \$250 million first stage contract is for 1,129 family houses. The second stage contract, worth \$118 million, is for five blocks, each containing about 70 apartments and for a motel, supermarket, primary school, kindergarten and infrastructure. The new contract will cover the third, fourth and fifth stages of the town's development, which will be tendered as a single package. The third stage is for public buildings, including a school and a supermarket, and an industrial estate. The fourth stage entails the construction of 1,678 houses, designed for six-member families and the final stage is for additional public buildings. At Sarir, companies are being invited to prequalify for the first stage of a new town planned to have 20,000 residents by 1990, and a possible eventual

town of 60,000. The town will act as the focus for agricultural and oil industry developments in the region. Vast underground water reserves in the area are already being tapped for a desert irrigation project, and there are plans for a \$7 billion pipeline to carry water to the coast for agricultural and domestic use. The Sarir new town will be built in three stages. [Excerpt] [London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 23, Apr 82 p 18]

SPANISH TRADE INCREASED--Spanish exports to the Libyan Jamahiriya in 1980 totalled \$360,190,000, more than double the figure for each of the three preceding years. Statistics just published by the Spanish Trade Ministry also show that Libya was Madrid's third largest Arab export market in 1980 after Saudi Arabia and Algeria. Spanish imports from the Jamahiriya, mostly comprising oil, have been rising more steadily, reaching \$1.3 billion in 1980, almost twice the 1979 figure and about three times that of 1977. Libya was the third largest Arab exporter of goods to Spain in 1980 after Saudi Arabia and Iraq. In 1980 Spain sold \$2.1 billion worth of goods to the Arab homeland accounting for 10 percent of all the country's exports. In the same year, Madrid imported goods worth \$8.2 billion from the Arab region, the equivalent of 24 percent of all Spanish imports. In 1977 the Arab countries took only 8 percent of Spain's exports, and supplied Madrid with only 18.4 percent of its overall imports. [Text] [London JAMAHIRIYA REVIEW in English No 23, Apr 82 p 18]

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ALLEGED U.S. PLANS FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE CRITICIZED

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Mar 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Another Unacceptable Pretext"]

[Text] The United States is forming a rapid deployment force as part of its global strategy. That is its own business. But when it speaks openly or obliquely about the task of this force being "to protect the Gulf from external threats" the nations of the Gulf have completely rejected it, both in formal statements by officials and in declarations by the Gulf Cooperative Council. They have on every occasion, both individually and as a group, emphatically stated that they consider this "protection" an imposition and unacceptable barefaced intervention. They have insisted on revealing the obvious truth about which there can be no dispute: that the security of this region belongs to the internal affairs of its citizens. They possess the wherewithal and the capacity to protect their own land, resources and independence. They firmly believe that one of the basic conditions for preserving their security and continuing to carry out their mission to serve the world economy is to remain aloof from global struggles, and not allow themselves to be drawn into them to become a party to them.

From this standpoint we can only view the statements uttered yesterday by the U.S. assistant secretary of defense on altering the task of the rapid deployment force so as to include intervention in the event of "internal subversion by radical forces" as an extension of the former position that has been completely rejected.

We say this in the knowledge that the internal circumstances of the Gulf nations are strong and stable enough so that the possibility of any internal subversion could not reach the point at which the United States would want to adopt an additional pretext to justify intervention.

If Washington wants, for example, to keep away the Soviet danger and what we are calling internal subversion which it is equating that with, the way to do that is by respecting the independence and sovereignty of the nations in question and by helping to establish a just peace in the Middle East which is in the interest of these nations and their future.

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HELICOPTER COMPANY FORMED

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Mar 82 p 2

[Article: "A National Helicopter Company Will Offer Shares To Citizens For Subscription With Capital of 60 Million Dirhams"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi--AL-BAYAN--The executive council of the emirate of Abu Dhabi yesterday submitted a draft bill for establishing an Abu Dhabi Helicopter Company.

The bill defined the company's goals in possessing helicopters and using them in all kinds of commercial activity within the nation and along its shores to provide the services needed by its businessmen.

In order to accomplish its goals the company may take whatever actions are required for it to perform properly within the emirate and abroad.

The draft bill provides for the company's headquarters to be in the city of Abu Dhabi. It gives the board of directors the authority to establish branches, offices and agencies for the company within the UAE and abroad.

The bill stipulates that the company will have a life of 25 years from the date of its establishment. This will be subject to renewal unless it is decided to dissolve the company before its term is up.

It set the company's capital at 60 million dirhams, consisting of 600,000 shares valued at 100 dirhams each. The company's shares will have a nominal value. Thirty percent will be owned by the government of Abu Dhabi. The remaining capital will be raised by a public subscription offering restricted to citizens, both real persons and artificial persons. The company's board of directors will determine the principles, rules and conditions of the subscription offering, and the payment for and ownership of the shares, taking into account that no shareholder will be allowed to own more than 500 of the shares offered for subscription.

The draft bill authorizes the government of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to transfer or sell all or some of the shares it owns to citizens. In that event the necessary steps will be taken to modify the provisions of the law and the company's basic structure.

It allows shares to be transferred or sold only to citizens, with the exception of shares transferred to the heirs of a citizen shareholder.

The bill stipulates that the shareholder's responsibility is limited to the value of the shares he owns, and allows the company after payment of its capital in full to take loans at home or abroad to finance its operations.

The company will be managed by a board of directors consisting of seven members, headed by the chairman of the emirate's airports bureau. It will include one member appointed by the executive board, and five members elected at the company's ordinary general [stockholders'] meeting. The term of membership will be 3 years, subject to renewal. As an exception to the provisions of the aforementioned paragraph the first board of directors will be formed from seven members, including the chairman, appointed by the executive board which will also determine their compensation.

Neither the chairman nor any member of the board nor the company's director general may have any direct or indirect interest in the agreements, contracts, projects or operations concluded or implemented by the company.

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BUDGET FIGURES FOR 1982 RELEASED

Dubayy al-BAYAN in Arabic 13 Mar 82 p 2

[Article: "Abu Dhabi's 1982 Budget Is 11.5 Billion Dirhams For Expenditures and Projects; 1,400 New Jobs Are Being Created"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi--UAE News Service--The total projected 1982 ordinary budget for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi amounts to 4,571,000,000 dirhams. This sum represents the emirate's estimated government expenditures.

The total projected cost for the annual development program amounts to 7 billion dirhams. This sum represents the estimated expenditures for the emirate's 1982 investment projects.

The emirate's proposed budget will be submitted to the executive committee at its next meeting for approval and determination of Abu Dhabi's share of federal government expenses for 1982. Its share was 20 billion dirhams last year.

The estimated expenditures for the municipality of Abu Dhabi and urban planning amounted to 1.8 billion dirhams. The estimated expenditures of the Bureau of Electricity and Water in Abu Dhabi amounted to 1.98 billion dirhams; the Department of Agriculture in al-'Ayn: 524 million dirhams; the Bureau of Electricity and Water in al-'Ayn: 294 million dirhams; the Bureau of Ports: 111 million dirhams; the Bureau of Purchasing: 309 million dirhams; the Department of Public Services: 102 million dirhams; the Department of Labor: 88 million dirhams; the Department of Agriculture: 177 million dirhams.

The estimated expenditures for the Department of Finance in the projected ordinary budget for 1982 amount to 27 million dirhams; the Customs Bureau: 29 million dirhams; the al-'Ayn zoo: 14 million dirhams; the al-Sa'diyat Research Center: 12 million dirhams; the municipality of al-'Ayn: 9 million dirhams; the religious courts: 15 million dirhams; monuments and tourism in al-'Ayn: 7 million dirhams; the Zayid sports city: 171 million dirhams; the Higher Committee for Heritage and History: 3 million dirhams; commercial buildings: 14 million dirhams; the advisory council: 9 million dirhams; the Bureau of Planning and Management: 7 million dirhams.

The projected expenditures for the bureaus which provide services directly to the public--such as the Department of Electricity and Water--rose, inasmuch as their funding in Abu Dhabi amounted 1.98 billion dirhams. This is attributable to the government's concern for public services.

With regard to overall employment in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi the proposed budget includes a total of 27,890 separate jobs compared with a total of 26,723 jobs in 1981, inasmuch as 1,404 new jobs have been created and 147 have been abolished.

In the Department of Electricity and Water alone 484 new jobs have been created, while 201 were created in the municipality [of Abu Dhabi]; 297 in the municipality of al-'Ayn; and 98 in the Department of Electricity and Water in al-'Ayn. The remaining jobs are in the other departments. This was in order to meet the expansion of services provided by these departments or to fill a shortage of workers in them. In the Department of Water and Electricity in Abu Dhabi the proposed budget created the jobs necessary to complete the crew required to operate the new units in the electric generating stations of al-Nar al-Gharbiyah and Bani Yas, and the new expansions in civilian roads.

The total estimated salaries, bonuses and wages in the projected budget amount to 1,562,000,000 dirhams compared with 1,275,000,000 dirhams in 1981. This is for all the departments in the Abu Dhabi government.

The estimated expenditures for the emirate's 1982 development program amount to 7 billion dirhams.

The estimated sum of 6.5 billion dirhams has been earmarked for projects under contract; 300 million dirhams for projects on which work has begun; and 200 million dirhams for maintenance projects.

The departments of employment and water and electricity, and the municipality of Abu Dhabi are the three agencies for which the highest sums were allocated in the development program inasmuch as the estimated investment costs for the department of employment amount to 1,924,000,000 dirhams; the Department of Water and Electricity, 1,656,000,000 dirhams; and the municipality of Abu Dhabi, 1,288,000,000 dirhams.

There are 158 new projects in the proposed program, at a total cost of 4.94 billion dirhams.

At its most recent session, held last Tuesday, the advisory committee approved this proposed budget.

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